



# DPWI hosts webinar on EPWP Knowledge Management

By Michael Mokoena

Pictures by EPWP Communications



Strengthening knowledge management collaboration across all Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) implementing bodies will assist the government to appropriately archive the information and thereby build EPWP knowledge base about the socio-economic impact of the EPWP in the lives of South Africans. This is a view that was expressed during the Knowledge Management presentations by different speakers who attended a recent Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) Webinar on the EPWP Knowledge Management Community of Practice.

The webinar- themed “Knowledge Management as a source of innovation in the EPWP” - was aimed at encouraging EPWP officials and its implementers to continuously share information about the Programme which will contribute to the knowledge management repository system and also strengthen the EPWP institutional memory.

Currently the EPWP Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) which serve as a repository system for the Programme can only be accessed by the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure EPWP officials. In addition, the EPWP Knowledge Management consider that in future, the scope of the Knowledge Management might be broadened up and form an integrated Knowledge Management system which would be accessed by stakeholders such as all government spheres, researchers, the business community, and civil society to access quality EPWP

information with ease. In the context of EPWP Knowledge Management is defined as simply the practice of creating, identification, capturing, storing and sharing knowledge so that individuals in an organisation can learn lessons and strategically apply them in the future.

The representative of the Department of Public Service and Administration, Ms Sebenzile Zibani... highlighted that the Programme is doing well in executing its duties related to knowledge management which are guided by the DPSA Knowledge Management Framework. She further indicated that according the DPSA assessment of EPWP maturity level, the Programme is now at the expansion level, which is very satisfactory based on the DPSA maturity level scale which is rates from reaction, initiation, expansion and the final level being refinement

In his keynote address, the Acting Director General (DG) of DPWI, Mr. Imtiaz Fazel, pointed out that sound knowledge management practices will assist the government to preserve the institutional memory of the EPWP.

“In the event of a disaster where records of the organisation are destroyed or in an instance where an official exit due to retirement or some other reason, sound knowledge management practices will assist us to preserve the EPWP memory and to also continue with the work of implementing the Programme,” acting DG said.

“The intention is to identify opportunities of intervention to ensure effective use of knowledge management to strengthen the Programme,” he added.

In her remarks, the Deputy Director- General (DDG) of the EPWP Branch, Ms. Carmen-Joy Abrahams, stressed the importance of stronger collaborations and networking among stakeholders to drive knowledge management across the EPWP.

“We must acknowledge that there’s knowledge accumulation across the Programme and it is important for us to collectively share that knowledge across all 4 sectors and the more than 350 public bodies,” DDG Abrahams said.

She added that it was important for the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) to be part of this process of collaborating on knowledge management within the EPWP.

DDG Abrahams also commended the work done by the internal EPWP Knowledge Management Unit and added that there were plans to expand the unit’s function across the EPWP.

The Webinar was attended by 275 officials from various institutions such as the Independent Labour Organisation (ILO), South Africa Revenue Services (SARS), and Centre for Public Service Innovation, EPWP implementing bodies such as sector lead departments, Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA), provincial departments, and municipalities across the country. KM practitioners from the public service, private sector and parastatals also attend.

# The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) a Panacea for SA's Unemployment Challenges?

By Lungisani Dladla – Student at the University of KwaZulu-Natal

Pictures by Michael Mokoena



Public Employment Programmes (PEPs) have a long history of providing much needed relief for those suffering from poverty and unemployment. The programmes offer the bulk of social support available to poor communities and serve as a safety net to cushion them from the impact of unemployment in the short-to-medium term.

The democratic government of South Africa established in 1994 recognised the potential benefit of using labour-intensive construction methods as part of PEPs to assist in addressing poverty, unemployment, low skills and large backlogs of public service delivery.

The government introduced the National Public Works Programme (NPWP) as a critical element of job creation efforts. The two key thrusts of the NPWP were the Community-Based Public Works Programme (CBPWP) and the reorientation of mainstream public expenditure towards infrastructure creation, using labour-intensive techniques.

In 2004 following the Growth and Development Summit of 2003 (GDS: 2003), the Government of South Africa introduced the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), a countrywide initiative aimed at 'providing poverty and income relief through temporary work for the unemployed to carry out socially useful activities and equip participants with a modicum of training and work experience which should enhance their ability to earn a living in the future.' GDS Agreement, (June 2003).

Understanding the role of the EPWP and how it operates in the broader policy framework of Government, the Consolidated

Programme Overview and Logical Framework: 2004 (EPWP Log Frame: 2004) - which paved the way and operationalised the EPWP in its current form as we now know it - outlined three key objectives of the programme:

- To create temporary work opportunities and income for at least a million unemployed South Africans (between 2004-2009)
- To provide needed public goods and services, labour-intensively and at acceptable standards, through the use of mainly public sector budgets and public and private sector implementation capacity
- To increase the potential for at least 14% of public works participants to earn future income by providing work experience, training and information related to local work opportunities, further education and training and SMME development. (Infrastructure 8%, environment 10%, social 40%, economic 30%)

Over the past three phases of the Programme (i.e. Phase 1 to Phase 3), the EPWP has not fundamentally shifted from the key objectives outlined in the EPWP Log Frame: 2004.

However, different sectors of the society including some academics, politicians, commentators and community members, have contested and strongly criticised the impact of the EPWP because of the unemployment and types of jobs the programme creates. The criticism is understandable as the broader economy is not creating enough jobs to accommodate all the unemployed people. Within this context, the following questions need to be asked: Are these criticisms justifiable and was the EPWP in its inception meant to create permanent employment or was it meant to aid the broader economic policy on the three key objectives outlined above?

Without totally dismissing the criticism as being misplaced, one may argue that it should instead be viewed positively as highlighting the programme as providing some hope for the masses of unemployed people in South Africa. As noted by former member of the National Planning Commission and a researcher into small businesses Dr Thami Mazwai in an article headlined: Basic Social Grants Must be Linked to the Expanded Public Works Programme in the Country: 'The programme has developed a momentum of its own...' creating temporary work opportunities and income support for the poor and unemployed. Hence, the spotlight now being on the programme.

But this does not mean PEPs alone will provide the needed economic solution in the country hampered by an unemployment rate of 34.9% using the narrow definition and 46.6% using the expanded definition - the highest since the start of the Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) in 2008, according to Stats SA QLFS – Q3:2021.

As financial journalist and Associate Business Editor at the Daily Maverick newspaper Ms Sasha Planting asserted in her article on 12 December last year headlined: Job Creation: The end of the year is a time to honour those who 'just do it' - unemployment in South Africa is a structural problem. The demand for unskilled labour has fallen over the past two decades, particularly in the agricultural, industrial and mining sectors, while the supply of labour, mostly unskilled, or less skilled, has continued to rise.

Taking the above into consideration, one can argue that the EPWP must continue to be viewed as an "aid" to the broader economic policy framework in the country and a contributor to the alleviation of poverty and income relief through temporary work to the poor and unemployed, through short-to-medium term jobs.

Understanding and acknowledging the role played by the EPWP in the broader policy framework, the position and function of the programme is clear.

Taking into consideration the challenges and structural nature of unemployment in South Africa, PEPs, should be viewed as stop

gap measures - a means to an end rather than an end itself - with the broader unemployment challenge being addressed by means of a wider economic policy framework including industrialisation, development of sustainable entrepreneurship and comprehensive small business development interventions.

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\*The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI).

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# KwaZulu Natal EPWP Artisan Development Learners Lauded for Good Progress

By Sduduzo Simelane and Velile Jiyane

Pictures by Sduduzo Simelane and Velile Jiyane



On Wednesday, 24 November 2021, the Elangeni Technical and Vocational Education and Training College in Pinetown, KwaZulu Natal, hosted an auditor from the National Skills Fund (NSF) who had come to conduct an on-site verification of the 'AgriSeta Artisan Learners Project'. Present at this gathering were the NSF Assistant Director for Programme Monitoring, Mr Khunedi Moloisi (to conduct the audit); the Elangeni TVET team (led by Mr Thabani Sibiyi) and the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (NDPWI) Durban-based team (led by Mr Sduduzo Simelane). In addition, there was Mr Sebe Mazula who represented the Head Office of the NDPWI as well as five of the six learners currently placed with the Pinetown campus of the Elangeni TVET.

In July 2020 the NDPWI signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the Agriculture Sector Education and Training Authority (AgriSETA) for three years (July 2020 to September 2023) to provide Apprenticeship training to 400 EPWP participants across the country. The objective of this Programme, commonly known as 'AgriSETA Artisan Learners Project' is to enable participants to become qualified artisans through provision of technical, vocational, education and placement opportunities. At inception, 34 participants were recruited in KwaZulu- Natal, six of whom were placed at various campuses of the Elangeni TVET, to study a range of trades such as Motor Mechanics, Welding, Plumbing and Electrical works. With the Programme having run a full year, it was on 24 November 2021 thus time for the above partners, convened by AgriSETA, to get together and evaluate the progress.

In his opening remarks, Mr Sibiyi, commended the partners for proving a valuable forum for cooperation. He praised the learners for the commitment they had shown, noting that some of them had come from outside of Durban. He also appreciated the funding that the Programme had brought to the TVET.

The Project Coordinator, Mr Siphamandla Msomi delivered a progress report which entailed milestones on the attendance

records, stipend payment records and assessments records indicating the modules in which the learners had already been found to be competent.

## Participants' testimonies

Ms Mpume Milicent Zulu comes from Mtubatuba on the north coast of KwaZulu Natal, about 230 km from Durban. She is doing Plumbing and has so far performed well being found competent in ten modules. She tells us that life has been a daily challenge, especially with regards to the availability of money for self-development and livelihood and she hopes that once she qualifies with a trade in Plumbing her situation will change. She will start her company to advance plumbing business opportunities and employ people.

Zanele Mwelase, hails from eMachobeni in Inanda about 30 km north of Durban. She shared her life struggles with poverty as a teenager. She is grateful to a local Councilor who introduced her to an EPWP programme in eThekweni Municipality in 2016 where she worked as a water leak monitor. She harboured a desire to become a lawyer and she registered for a law degree with Unisa which would, as she says, 'have enabled me to assist people of Inanda to have access to the social justice system and thereby defeat the element of crime in the area'. With no funds to pursue law, Ms Mwelase feels fortunate to have been recruited to pursue Welding within the AgriSeta Apprenticeship programme at Elangeni TVET College, which she has come to enjoy, she said.

Learners have also praised the support they have received from DHET, AgriSeta and DPWI in this journey to making their dreams come true. The most amazing experience that the learners had on the day of the visit was the one-on-one opportunity with the NSF Auditor, Mr Khunedi Moloisi, who interrogated and verified all learners present with regards to how they were brought in and remained participants of this magnificent programme. It was

fascinating to listen to the feedback report from the NSF Auditor as he stressed the following:

- Acknowledged the R200 million return on investment and motivated learners to continue building a good rapport with their Facilitators and continue to demonstrate willingness to complete the programme while he congratulated them for the opportunity they have received to be in the programme.
- When Mr Moloisi finished providing a feedback report to all, the learners enthusiastically began to share more experiences and confessed that, "We sincerely apologise for poor assessment results in the beginning of the programme but we are now geared to achieve satisfactory results in order to contribute to the development of our careers in a manner that will make DHET to be proud about us in this programme.

In his closing remarks, Mr Moloisi thanked every stakeholder involved in support of the learners especially the Elangeni TVET College. He expressed his gratitude regarding the work progress done and indicated that the only concern that needed to be attended to was the UIF not being deducted from learners. Learners should have been registered with UIF before being contracted by Elangeni and this had to be done with immediate effect as part of social protection enshrined by SA Constitution. The Programme has, after a year, had to navigate a few hurdles: delays in appointment of facilitators; Covid 19; July 2021 civil unrest as well as difficulty in finding placement companies as learners need host employers for trade test qualification). But the TVET is working tirelessly to manage any challenges that arise. It helps that the learners are equally committed to their endeavor and the praise they have received is deserved.

# DPWI host EPWP Virtual Learning Programme

By Pelokazi Baliso

Pictures by EPWP Communications



The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) recently hosted a week-long virtual capacitation programme for public bodies that are responsible for implementing the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). The five-day capacitation programme was aimed at providing EPWP implementers with in-depth knowledge and understanding of the Programme. The learning programme was organised by the EPWP Partnership Support Unit.

At the start of the five-day programme, DDG Abrahams explained that the EPWP Learning Programme was one of the platforms used by DPWI to engage EPWP implementers on key issues affecting the Programme.

“It is through such programmes that we enrich the debate on key issues affecting EPWP...for instance, your views on issues such as the minimum wage, incentive grant, and others will assist us in our work of formulating the EPWP policy,” DDG Abrahams said.

## Participants' Testimonials

Officials who attended this capacitation programme came from various implementing bodies throughout the country including municipalities in Mpumalanga, North West, KwaZulu-Natal, Northern Cape, and the Western Cape.

Ms. Pearl Mbita from Umdoni Municipality in KwaZulu Natal, who is an Acting EPWP Coordinator said that “the EPWP Learning Programme was a very well packaged session that gave us an in-depth understanding of the EPWP”

“The session also allowed us as participants to engage with one another and to learn from each other,” Mbita said. She said that more sessions of this nature were needed to ensure that government succeeds in its work of tackling poverty through the creation of EPWP work opportunities.

## Day one of the EPWP Learning Programme

Day one of the learning programme saw the Manager: EPWP National Coordination, Mr. Lungisani Dladla presented a module of the overview of the EPWP (Module 1: Discover the vision Overview of the EPWP).

“This module aims to outline the history of the Public Employment Programmes (PEPs) globally and the birth of the EPWP in South Africa. By the end of this capacitation programme on Friday (25 February 2022) you should also be able to grasp several key aspects of the EPWP including the paradigm shift that took place from phase 1 to 4 of the EPWP; provide an overview of the EPWP governance structure, institutional arrangements and the roles and responsibilities assigned to public bodies through protocols and policies,” Dladla explained.

## Day two

On day two of the programme, Training EPWP Coordinator, Ms. Tsakani Maringa, delivered a module on Training & Enterprise Development – Shifting Mindsets. Ms. Maringa clarified that the module was called Shift Mindsets because “through training & enterprise development we aim to shift the mindsets of the EPWP implementers to see EPWP beyond just a short term employment programme but rather an opportunity to make a meaningful contribution in the lives of participants”.

To wrap day two of the programme, Mr. Sebe Mazula presented the Monitoring and Evaluation module. “The purpose of Monitoring and Evaluation within the EPWP is to improve understanding of monitoring and evaluation in terms of programme performance and to enable those who attended the module to contribute meaningfully to monitoring and evaluation of the EPWP,” Mr. Mazula elaborated.

## Day three

The highlights on this day were the presentations by officials from the Infrastructure and Social sectors. Mr. Mahlodi Sebola unpacked the module on Infrastructure - Creating assets.

“The purpose of the module is to highlight the compliance requirements, funding, methodologies, and targets of the infrastructure sector, and also to generate an understanding and buy-in to public bodies implementing the infrastructure projects and programmes,” Sebola said.

Social Sector – Open doors module was delivered by Ms. Sanny Maluleka who highlighted key sub-programme implemented by the sector such as Early Childhood Development and Home Community Based Care.

#### **Day four**

Ms. Melika Nkuna delivered the Non-State Sector Module. Nkuna described the aims of the Non-State Sector that it formalizes community groups to support and positively contribute to government priorities of alleviating poverty and thereby reducing unemployment and delivering public goods and services.

Mr. Isaac Mothapo delivered a module on the Environment and Culture sector (Value our planet and heritage). His presentation provided valuable information on a range of EPWP projects within the sector.

Closing the programme on 25 February 2022, The Deputy Director General of EPWP, Ms. Carmen-Joy Abrahams thanked the participants for attending.

“I am encouraged by the participation from all the attendees. I hope that every participant attending this session gained more information regarding the Programme and will go back to their communities to drive the government’s work of tackling poverty through the creation of EPWP work opportunities,” she said.

DDG Abrahams also commended the good work done by all the officials who contributed to the delivery of the Programme.



# DPWI in partnership with Beaufort West Local Municipality hosts EPWP graduation ceremony

By Michael Mokoena

Pictures by Tsakani Maringa – EPWP Training Coordinator Western Cape



The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) in partnership with the Beaufort West Local Municipality in the Western Cape hosted a graduation ceremony for 19 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants on 11 February 2022. These participants were part of the municipality's Environment and Culture Sector project to maintain its landfill sites and they were based in Beaufort West, Merweville, Noorsport, and Murraysburg where they performed tasks such as waste picking, beautification of the open spaces like streets, parks, cemeteries, and stadiums.

During their participation in the Programme, the municipality partnered with DPWI to provide these participants with training in National Certificate: Environmental Practice Skills Programme.

The manager responsible for the municipality's EPWP Environment and Culture Programme, Ms. Vuyokazi Ruter explained that the objective of the training was to provide participants with the expertise needed to carry out their work and to also capacitate them with skills they can use to provide for themselves after exiting the EPWP.

"The training was also aimed at providing participants with an opportunity to contribute to the development and improvement of their communities," Ruter said.

She encouraged the participants to also use the skills they have learned from the training to set up cooperatives (small businesses) and to look out for economic opportunities in their communities.

Ruter added that despite government budgetary constraints, the municipality remained committed to improving the socio-economic conditions of the residents of Beaufort West through the implementation of such EPWP projects.

## About the Training

A report written by the EPWP Manager responsible for this training -Mr. Thamsanqa Ngqula - highlighted the impact of the training on the work of the participants. "The training enhanced participants' knowledge and capacitated them to perform their duties effectively and efficiently thereby making a difference in the environment of Beaufort West Local Municipality," he wrote.

Mr. Ngqula said that "Based on the success of the training, efforts would be made to ensure that these participants receive another skills programme from the same qualification so that they can accumulate more credits which will enhance their chances of completing the entire qualification and getting employment."

Mr. Ngqula's report added that the impact of the training "uplifted confidence of the learners to believe in themselves that they can develop themselves for better work opportunities".

"Through the training, the Beaufort West Local Municipality became very clean and level of hygiene improved in the community," Ngqula said.

The training is accredited on three unit standards namely:

- Keep the working area safe and productive
- Perform routine maintenance
- Use tools and operate equipment in an environmentally responsible manner

The unit standards have a total of 26 credits and this training was funded through the Department of Higher Education and Training's National Skills Fund (NSF).

## Participants' Testimonials

Ms. Mirriam Saba said that while participating in the EPWP provided her with an opportunity to earn an income, what she appreciated, even more, was an opportunity to acquire skills in caring for the environment. "The training was exciting...it was like going back to school to acquire a skill I can use to provide for myself and my family," she said.

For Mr. Gerrit Bailey, the training provided him with the knowledge and understanding of different machines used in the work of maintaining a landfill site.

Both Saba and Bailey said that the training also taught them a lot about social skills such as teamwork. They both thanked DPWI and Beaufort West Local Municipality for allowing them to participate in the EPWP.

# EPWP in partnership with AgriSETA provides artisan training to Free State youths

By Michael Mokoena

Pictures by Cinderella Makunike



She indicated that thus far, the participants have completed various theory and practical modules including the following:

- LA1:LPI: Orientation of the programme
- LA2:LP2/LP3: Role of the plumber and professional bodies, adding Health & Safety and PPE
- KM03: Tools, Equipment, Components and Site practice
- KM5: Theory of water drainage and drainage
- KM6: Above water and below ground drainage system
- KM7: sanitary ware

She added that for the first year of study, the following knowledge modules specifications have been completed:

- 642601000-KM-01, Health, Safety, Quality and Legislation, NQF level 3, Cr 3.
- 6426010000-KM-03, Tools, Equipment, Components and Site practice, NQF Level 3, Cr 3
- 642601000-KM-05, Theory of Water and Drainage Excavation, NQF Level 4, Cr 8
- 642601000-KM-06, Above and Below Ground Drainage Systems, NQF level 4, Cr 43
- 642601000-KM-07, Sanitary Wear, NQF Level 4, Cr 4
- 642601000-KM-08, Hot and Cold Water Systems, NQF Level 4, Cr 18

A partnership between the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and the Agricultural Sector Education and Training Authority (AgriSETA) of developing artisan skills within the country's agricultural sector continues to bear positive outcomes. In the Free State, the two entities have recently selected 10 young people from Kroonstad to participate in the EPWP-AgriSETA Artisan Development Programme. For 3 years, these young people will undergo practical and theoretical training in plumbing.

According to the Director for EPWP Beneficiary Training, Ms. Cinderella Makunike, the training of these participants started in December 2020. "These 10 participants are part of the 400 young people across the country who will be trained as artisans through this initiative," she said.

Makunike explained that the participants from Kroonstad have been placed at Flavius Mareka TVET College for theoretical training while a local company - CC Chickens plant – has taken them in for practical working.

"This training has changed the perspective that the apprentices had before participating in the programme, they now have a proper understanding of plumbing than before, and they understand the role that plumbing plays in the world of business and the society at large. Participating in the programme has also opened new opportunities for them as most are women who will be participating in the male-dominated industry, the training that they are receiving also helps them to solve problems in the community by applying skills that they've acquired in the programme," Makunike said.

## Participants' Testimonials

For Ms. Leoma Baloyi Folotsi, participating in this Programme has given her a chance to change her life for the better. "The skills I am acquiring from this Programme puts me in a better position to one day open my own company and contribute towards the creation of work for people in my community," she said.

Another participant - Mr. Bongani Mabayo – said that the training he is receiving through this Programme has taught him a lot about plumbing. "I believe that the skills I am acquiring from this Programme will help me to build a better future for myself and my family," he said.



# Post Covid19 lockdown boost for EPWP SMMEs at the Diamond Pavilion Mall Pop-up Market Exhibition in Kimberley

By Nomazulu Sibanda

Pictures by Nomazulu Sibanda



The Department of Small Business Development (DSBD) through its agencies SEDA and SEFA as well as the Northern Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism (DEDAT) hosted a two-day pop-up market exhibition at the Diamond Pavilion Mall in Kimberley from 10-11 December 2021 to assist small businesses to recover from the effects of the Covid-19 lockdown. Two of the small businesses supported by the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) in the province were amongst the 36 Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) from the Frances Baard District that participated in the exhibition.

**Café A La Maison (Pty) Ltd** is a 100 percent youth-owned business initiated by an EPWP trained private chef from Kimberley. It was one of the businesses that participated at the exhibition. The business secured funding from Small Enterprise Finance Agency (SEFA) through the Township and Rural Enterprise Support programme (TREP) and is currently providing private chef services to the Kimberley community. This business is still receiving enterprise development support from the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI). After this exhibition, the business will receive Improve Your Business training to put systems in place and the HACCP food safety training to comply with the food industry standards.

Another EPWP supported SMME that participated is **Imbokotho Investment and Manufacturing Primary Cooperative** which is a 100 percent women-owned entity also based in Kimberley. This Co-operative is in the arts and craft sector, making shopping bags and mats from plastic waste, wool products, and beadwork. Members of the co-operative have been trained for three months in clothing and textile manufacturing. This co-operative was encouraged by DEDAT to consider exporting its products which mean further support will be required in terms of compliance with the requirements of the international markets.

Participating in the exhibition gave these EPWP supported SMMEs a chance to showcase their work to potential clients to establish leads and to get a chance to speak to government officials from other departments who also gave advice and pledged further support. It is important to note that the enterprises that are supported by EPWP do not compromise on quality. This is proven by their ability to participate in such an event. This means they are the same as any other enterprise in the country. What is key in all this is the effort and willingness of EPWP participants to run their income-generating activities which will assist them beyond participating in the Programme.

# North West Regional Office EPWP delivers FSCA training to Department of Social Development EPWP participants

By Jimmy Mbhokota

Pictures by Jimmy Mbhokota



The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) delivered a one-day FSCA Training to 25 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants from the Department of Social Development (DSD). The event was graced by Mr. Malesela Kekana from Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA) who expressed his gratitude on how the facilitator delivered the training module to the participants.

The event was held on the 8th of December 2021 in Potchefstroom at the JB Marks Local Municipality. The 25 participants expressed excitement about the training and when asked about what they expect from this training, Ms. Oarabile Sebitloane indicated that she was eager to learn how to draw a budget and manage to stick to it.

She said: "I have been receiving my EPWP wages for more than 18 months now, but I haven't managed to save anything."

During the training, participants engaged with the subject matter and shared their financial challenges and experiences. The topics that were covered during the training included:

- Understanding of the FSCA
- The role of FSCA
- Treating Customers Fairly
- Money Management and many other topics related to finances

At the end of the training, the participants expressed gratitude to both DPWI and DSD for providing them with valuable financial literacy training. One participant - Ms. Fina Molefe – said: "From today onwards, I am committing myself to save a little as R100 every month after earning my stipend."

The DPWI officials who facilitated the training as well as the FSCA official - Kekana – also thanked the participants for attending the training.

# DPWI partners with the Eastern Cape Education Department to train safety patrollers in the province

By Michael Mokoena

Pictures by EPWP Beneficiary Training



Some of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants who are appointed by the Eastern Cape Department of Education as School Safety Patrollers at schools in the province have received accredited training in Patrol Security Officer. These participants underwent training during the 2019/20 financial year. The training was organised through the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure's EPWP Training Unit and it was targeted at scholar patrols in Komani and those working at schools in Port Elizabeth.

In Komani, DPWI trained 19 participants who are working at schools in the area while in Port Elizabeth 21 scholar patrollers were trained. This training was accredited by the Safety and Security Sector Education and Training Authority (SASSETA) and it is at NQF Level 2 & 3.

Some of the unit standards covered in this training included:

- Explain the requirements for becoming a security service provider
- Apply legal aspects in a security environment

The training assisted participants to carry out their security duties with high-level proficiency. Some of the activities that the participants were executing at schools where they were placed include:

1. Explain the requirements for becoming a security service provider
2. Apply legal aspects in a security environment
3. Give evidence in court
4. Use security equipment
5. Perform Handover and take over responsibilities
6. Handle complaints and problems
7. Perform basic fire fighting
8. Carry out basic first aid treatment in the workplace

## Participants' Testimonials

Mr. Monde Dakiso who is placed at Khwaza Senior Secondary School in Cofimvaba said that the training has taught him how to use all security equipment such as walkie-talkies, batons, handcuffs as well as security cameras.

"Working onsite has also taught me a lot in terms of security work. One of the things I have learned for instance is the importance of doing a proper handover of work from one shift to another," he added.

Ms. Nomazizi Jama, a scholar patroller at Nompumelelo Senior Secondary School in Whittlesea, explained that some of the tasks that she carried out at the school included "manning and controlling the security gate and ensuring the safety of everyone on the school premises".

"My duties also include reporting all visitors to the school principal before letting them onto the school premises," she said.

For Ms. Rosslyn Adonis, participating in the EPWP and receiving training in the security industry has opened her eyes to many exciting career opportunities that are available in the sector.

# DPWI-AgriSETA implements EPWP Artisan Development Programme in Limpopo

By Michael Mokoena

Pictures by Melika Nkuna EPWP Training Coordinator in Limpopo



The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) together with the Agricultural Sector Education and Training Authority (AgriSETA) have partnered with In Touch Community Development & Project Managers to provide artisan development training to 12 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants in Limpopo with skills in various artisan trades. The participants started the training at the beginning of February 2021 and are being trained in various artisan trades in the following fields:

- Plumbing Contractor (4)
- Bricklaying (4)
- Construction Carpentry (4)

According to the DPWI's EPWP Training Coordinator in Limpopo, Ms. Melika Nkuna, participants have already done gap closures and are currently doing simulations. They are expected to be going to the workplace in the near future.

Nkuna pointed out that during training, the participants were receiving a monthly training allowance of R3000.

## Participants' Testimonials

Ms. Keletjo Gololo, who is being trained in bricklaying, said that the training was going well thus far. "The facilitator is patient with us and explains things thoroughly. What I find most exciting about this training though is the practical part of it. ...practically carrying out tasks such as site clearing and stretcher bond," she added.

For Ms. Tracy Mokgadi Mokgopo, the training on plumbing has been filled with adventure. "I have learned a lot of interesting work like connecting pipes, pressure valve connection, and different types of pipes including underground pipes," she stated.

She thanked both DPWI and AgriSETA for an opportunity to participate in the programme.



# Financial literacy training for EPWP participants at Bryntirion Estate in Pretoria

By Michael Mokoena

Pictures by Moshidi Makhubela and Tshifhiwa Nkumeleni



“The Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA) training that I have attended has taught me a lot about financial literacy. The course has for instance taught me how to draw a budget, how to save (money), and how to manage money wisely”. These sentiments were expressed by Ms. Nompumelelo Mthimunya, one of the 93 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants who were taken through the FSCA training by the Gauteng Regional Office of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI). The participants are part of an EPWP project that is providing cleaning services to the Bryntirion Estate in Pretoria.

The training of the participants was attended by the Deputy Director General of the EPWP, Ms. Carmen-Joy Abrahams who encouraged participants to use the knowledge and information they acquired from the training to identify and explore business opportunities in their communities.

The FSCA training workshop comprised of the following Learning Outcomes;

- Managing money better
- Distinguishing between Needs and Wants
- Understanding the importance of having a budget
- Drawing up a budget and sticking to it
- Understanding the true cost of debt
- Having a step-by-step process to assist in reducing their debt
- Setting a personal action plan to improve a financial situation

The training was facilitated by the Deputy Director: EPWP Enterprise Development, Ms. Moshidi Makhubela as well as the Deputy Director EPWP Training in Gauteng, Mr. Tshifhiwa Nkhumeleni.

Nkhumeleni pointed out that the participants also learned that they must always engage with the registered Financial Service Providers and compare financial products before they buy or sign contracts that have financial implications.

Makhubela added that the participants were pleased to have attended the training and made a commitment to share the knowledge they acquired with their family members.