



DPWI commends all stakeholders who made submissions on the EPWP Policy

Article by Michael Mokoena

Pictures by Lerato Mpiwa and Pelokazi Baliso



The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) wishes to thank all stakeholders who took the time to submit comments on the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Policy during the Department’s extensive public consultation process on the EPWP Policy. The Department received an overwhelming number of inputs from various stakeholders on the EPWP Policy. The majority of the submissions were submitted orally during the consultation sessions held from 19 September – 14 October 2022.

“DPWI commends all South Africans who took part in the public consultation process on the EPWP Policy. Your comments (submissions) will guide us as we work on crafting the EPWP of the future and refining the Programme so that it tackles the rising unemployment levels in our country. The Department is currently consolidating all submissions and will infuse them into the new EPWP Policy that we are working on,” DPWI’s Deputy Director for EPWP, Ms. Carmen-Joy Abrahams said.

She also thanked all EPWP officials who worked tirelessly to ensure the successful rollout of the public consultations process.

The Director for Sustainable Livelihoods, Convergence and Compliance, Ms. Lindiwe Nkuna, pointed out that the EPWP Policy will embody all the legal frameworks that control and operate the workings of the Programme.

DPWI conducted the public consultation process on the EPWP Policy between September and October. To kick-off this process, the Department hosted the countrywide EPWP Policy Consultation Roadshows where oral submissions were solicited from various stakeholders. These roadshows took place in all nine provinces and solicited views from various stakeholders on how to craft and refine the EPWP of the future. The stakeholders who attended the roadshows included civil society, labour organisations, government entities, EPWP participants themselves as well as community members who have an interest in the EPWP.

During the same period, Department also called on all South Africans who were interested in the EPWP Policy to also submit their written comments via the department’s website or physically.

Some of the submissions made by the community on the EPWP Policy are on:

- Institutionalisation of EPWP across all the various spheres of government
- Reviewing current funding mechanisms for the programme for massification of the programme
- Strengthening partnerships in EPWP
- Addressing the recruitment of EPWP participants to minimize patronage and interference by external parties.

Western Cape Department of Health has appointed EPWP participants to be trained as EMS staff

Article and pictures by Brian Dlamini



The Western Cape Department of Health's College of Emergency Care has appointed 75 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants for training within the Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The participants are placed in different divisions within the EMS, namely: Call Centre, Administration, Supply chain, and Paramedics. The participants are appointed on a 12-month learnership programme with an option of extension of an additional 12 months depending on work performance and work ethics.

It is expected that the participants should accumulate a certain amount of Continuing Medical Education (CME) points per month and complete assignments. This is to ensure that their skill levels are sustained and enhanced throughout the programme.

The duties of the participants who are being trained as paramedics include treating and stabilizing patients at the scene before transporting them to a health facility in an ambulance. The participants are authorised to drive EMS vehicles (ambulances) once they have completed three driving phases. The phases

consist of a pre-determined amount of driving hours and are tested by the fleet manager before advancing to the next phase of driving.

- Phase 1 = 60 hours of driving without patients;
- Phase 2 = 60 hours of driving with patients; and
- Phase 3 = 120 hours driving in response to calls.

The project is providing work opportunities to a pool of unemployed youth working in EMS across the Western Cape, including the rural areas. The learnership aims to upskill and train young people in a manner that would qualify them for formal employment.

Other learners are placed at call centres that provide services to areas such as West Coast, Mooresberg, Winelands, Worcester, Central Karoo, Beaufort West, Eden, George, Overberg, Caledon, Cape Town, and Tygerberg. The call centres receive more than 33 000 thousand calls monthly and therefore, the participants play a vital role in making sure the communities get emergency medical services.

Learners' Testimonials

This Programme has provided unemployed young people with skills they can use to enter the formal job market. Ms. Lauren Griffiths is one of the young people who have used the skills they have gained from the Programme to find formal employment in the Western Cape Government. She joined the EPWP in 2017 and was placed at the government's College of Emergency Care where she was responsible for basic administration, dispatching of ambulances and replenishing office stationery. She explained that the training she got from the Programme landed her a formal job as an Admin Clerk within the Western Cape Department of Health.



DPWI hosts graduation ceremony for CWP participants in Barberton, Mpumalanga.

Article by Lerato Mpiwa and Michael Mokoena
Pictures by Lerato Mpiwa



The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) hosted a graduation ceremony for 30 Community Works Programme (CWP) participants who completed training in New Venture Capital. The graduation ceremony took place in November 2022 in Barberton- Mpumalanga and was hosted in collaboration with the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta), the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) as well as the Department of Higher Education (DHET) and Training's National Skills Fund (NSF).

The 25-day skills programme was aimed at providing participants with skills they can use to establish businesses after exiting the CWP. According to the Mpumalanga coordinator of CWP within NYDA, Mr. Benedict Nkambule, two of the graduates (participants) have already secured funding for their businesses from the NYDA.

“Cogta has been looking at ways of exiting CWP participants into sustainable livelihoods...that is why the Department has partnered with the NYDA, DPWI and Higher Education and Training Department - through the National Skills Fund- to offer provide participants with this training. Through such training we want to exit participants and assist them to create a better life for themselves by creating economic opportunities for themselves,” Nkambule added.

The DPWI's Manager for EPWP Training in Mpumalanga, Ms. Fela Mashaba, encouraged participants to use the skills and knowledge they have acquired from the training to set up businesses in their communities. “As you go out and create your small businesses, I urge you to also use the skills to contribute to the creation of work opportunities in your communities,” Mashaba said.

Mashaba explained that DPWI through the NSF had spent more than R360 000 on the programme.

She indicated that some of the unit standards covered during the training included:

- Applying the basic skills of Customer Service
- Managing Marketing and Selling
- Managing Finance for New Venture
- Financial Management

Mashaba pointed out that the 25-day training is accredited at NQF Level 2 by the Services SETA. Mashaba also provided a detailed background information on the importance of training within the EPWP. “Training within the EPWP remains vital as it provides the requisite skills to enhance quality delivery during and beyond project implementation. DPWI provides accredited training in the form of learnerships, skills training, and artisan development programme. Although the Department also provides a non-accredited training at a limited scale in the form of workshops and short learning programmes, we priorities the provision of quality accredited training that benefit participants beyond their participating in the EPWP,” she explained.

Honourable Councillor Constance Zwane of The City of Mbombela congratulated the participants for completing the training and appealed to them to continue to study further so that they can acquire more business skills.

“We want to see serious entrepreneurs out of you and the only way to achieve that is through skills development. Education will continue to open doors for you,” she said.

The DPWI's Acting Director for EPWP in Mpumalanga, Mr. Isaac Mothapo called on participants to become good ambassadors of the EPWP in their communities.

Participants Testimonials

Ms. Betty Tivane, was one of the 30 CWP participants who received certificates for completing a course in New Venture Capital which was offered by the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, in partnership with the Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Department and the National Youth Development Agency as well as the National Skills Fund.

Another CWP participant said the training has given her knowledge on how to manage business finances.



KwaZulu-Natal hosts EPWP Indaba

Article and pictures by Maanea Maselesele and Lerato Mpiwa



The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Public Works recently hosted the 5th Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Indaba at Archie Gumede Conference Centre in Mayville, Durban. The Indaba was facilitated by the Deputy Director of EPWP Training Mr. Thabani Mazibuko.

The Head of Department, Mr. Sboniso Majola, welcomed all guests in attendance and encouraged them to share good practices amongst different entities and to come up with the best strategies, innovations, and mechanisms to combat unemployment in the province, particularly that of young people.

The MEC for the Department, Honourable Dr. NNG Mahlaba delivered the keynote address and emphasised that the Indaba had to assess the impact and contribution of the EPWP in the province. He further emphasised the issue of formalising

participants' training. "EPWP participants must be allocated where they are best suited to develop their skills which will enable them to advance their careers. I am delighted that the province of KwaZulu-Natal will set the bar very high and continue to create more work opportunities".

The objectives of the Indaba were to:

- Improve EPWP awareness and understanding by all relevant stakeholders.
- Discuss the draft EPWP Policy currently under consultation
- Develop a long-term strategy to upscale KZN EPWP job creation.
- Identify quick wins for maximisation of job creation.
- Develop strategies to unlock barriers to job creation.
- Implement and communicate Provincial Mass Job creation and EPWP Exit Strategy



National Youth Chef Training Programme improving livelihoods

Article and pictures by Lesego Moretlwe



The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) has yet made a mark when one of its participants, Mr. Thembani Brian Furumele got an opportunity of improving his livelihood through the National Youth Chefs Training Programme (NYCTP). Furumele completed his Grade 12 in 2016 and was recruited into the NYCTP in 2017. In 2018, Furumele completed his diploma in Culinary Arts and qualified as a professional chef.

The young, vibrant and enthusiastic Furumele is only 25 years old and is already more than five years in the hospitality industry. He hails from Ka-Bungeni in Limpopo where he was raised by a single parent. However, he completed his grade 12 in Gauteng where he started his chef career. Furumele spoke passionately about his milestone in the EPWP and explained that he was very excited to have joined the EPWP and expressed that he was grateful for the opportunity to have undergone such a rewarding training.

This training was a collaboration between the EPWP, the Department of Tourism, and the Swiss Hotel School in Johannesburg. The training comprised of 2 days of theoretical training and 4-5 days of practical training at different hospitality industry sites such as hotels, lodges, and restaurants.

Due to the intensive knowledge and experience that he acquired while on training, Furumele got his first employment as the Head Chef at one of the restaurants in Johannesburg. He worked for



two and half years before exploring the industry and went on to work at a Fine Dining Restaurant where he was also a head chef for two and half years. He later practiced as a private chef, and he is currently working as an assistant head chef at Betty the Butcher restaurant in Gauteng where he is also a mentor to two students. Describing Furumele's demeanor at the workplace, Mr. Shuayb Salie who is the Head Chef at Betty the Butcher said Furumele is very reliable and responsible in carrying out his duties.

Participant testimonial

Furumele said "being someone from a disadvantaged background and very ambitious", when he got an opportunity to apply for the NYCTP, she did exactly that and has never regretted ever since. "I managed to get through my 2-year Diploma in culinary arts-professional cookery and that is where I have learned a lot and acquired my diploma. Immediately after that, I was lucky to be able to get employment because of the kind of education I managed to get which I was put through by the EPWP, Furumele added.

He continued to say, "I would like to encourage everyone who is from a disadvantaged background, someone who thinks there is little hope left, someone who thinks there is not much that will happen with their lives. I used to be one of those people as well, thinking that from a disadvantaged background, there could not be a better future like this. When I came across this Programme, it managed to uplift me to become a better man, gave me a better career, and granted me financial stability. To everyone who thinks there is little faith, all you need to do is go out there, research, and find out about these programmes that can help you like this one, the fantastic EPWP!, Furumele concluded.

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure contracted 533 NPOs to create 109 871 EPWP work opportunities for poor and unemployed South Africans

Article and pictures by Mosima



The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) has through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) contracted a total of 533 Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs) across the country to create 109 871 EPWP work opportunities in the current financial year. These NPOs were appointed through the Independent Development Trust (IDT) which is an implementing agent for the DPWI NPO Programme.

The contracted NPOs are implementing various EPWP community projects across the country. The projects implemented by these NPOs include: Gender based violence projects, Social Services projects, Educational projects, Prevention of Drugs & Substance Abuse projects, Agricultural projects, and Environmental Management projects.

“The EPWP participants who are working at these NPOs assist these entities to implement these projects,” the Director for the Non-State Sector Programme, Mr. Ndivhuwo Mulaudzi said.



He explained that the impact of the EPWP work executed by the NPOs was important in that it provides income support to the vulnerable members of the community. “The EPWP work opportunities created through these NPOs restores the dignity of our people and the income that the participants earn from the programme assist in stimulating the local economy,” Mulaudzi said.

Mulaudzi further explained that the EPWP-NPO Programme Funding Model cover participants’ wages and non-wages costs. The current daily rate for normal participants is R107.00 and for supervisors is R129.00. The Non-Wage Costs include 1% UIF, 1 % COIDA, 1 % Bank Charges, and 7% NPO Administrative Costs.

For an NPO to be deemed eligible to form part of the EPWP NPO Programme, it should satisfy the three stages of approval namely; (1) Functionality, (2) Due Diligence, and (3) Mandatory / Compulsory Document listed below:

Valid Tax Clearance Certificate from SARS, Confirmation letter for NPO UIF Registration (UF54), Confirmation of NPO COIDA Registration (Recent Letter of Good Standing), Latest letter of compliance from the Department of Social Development, the proposal must include a latest audit report or financial statement, Project Implementation Plan on how the entity will create high labour intensive project activities and work opportunities for the designated groups, NPO Registration Certificate and proof of existence / operations for a minimum period of 2 years, and proof of registration with the Central Supplier Database (CSD).



Mthatha Regional Office of DPWI hosts NYS graduations

Article by Nonhlanhla Ntuli-Mahlilikhla

Pictures by Nonhlanhla Ntuli-Mahlilikhla and Wendy Ludonga



The Mthatha Regional Office of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) last month hosted a graduation ceremony for 47 young people who participated in the National Youth Service (NYS) programme. The learners were part of two DPWI construction projects namely 14 SAI battalion repairs and renovations and 14 Sai Military base internal roads construction. The graduation ceremony was officiated by the Deputy Director for NYS in the regional office, Mr. Diaho Moso. In his address, Moso congratulated the learners for having been part of the NYS programme and wished them well for the future.



The event was attended by the leadership of the King Sabata Dalityebo Local Municipality which included the Member of the Mayoral Committee for Infrastructure Ms. Nokayi, Councillor Ketse from Ward 16, Ms. Malitlale who is a ward committee member for Ward 10 as well as the CDW Ms. N. Sitelo from ward 14. The leadership from the municipality called on the learners to use the skills they have attained from the programme to setting up small businesses so that they can assist in the creation of work opportunities in their own communities.

The Assistant Director for NYS, Ms. Nonhlanhla Ntuni-Mahlilikhla, explained that the participants received artisan training in trades such as painting, plumbing, kerbing and paving.

The DPWI Head office was represented by Mr. Phillip Tambani and he encouraged participants to use the skills they have acquired to lift themselves out of poverty. Tambani represented the NYS Director Ms. Lefentse Ratsela.

Some of the stakeholders who attended the event and gave messages of support to the participants included officials from state entities such as National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), Department of Labour, King Sabata Dalindyebo TVET College as well as and Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA).

The graduating learners expressed gratitude to the DPWI for the opportunity to participate in the NYS. Ms. Pelisa Kweza and Ms. Esona Luyenge who represented the learners commended the Programme for providing them with the skills to enter the formal job market. They also hailed the programme for providing them with financial support through the wages they were paid.

During the ceremony, the learners received certificates as well as toolboxes.

The Nelspruit Regional Office of the DPWI visits EPWP participants at Standerton Labour Centre construction site

Article and picture by Maanea Maselesele and Lerato Mpiwa



The Nelspruit Regional Office of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) recently visited the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP)-National Youth Service (NYS) participants in Standerton Labour Centre project which is currently underway in Mpumalanga. The visit was led by the EPWP NYS manager in the province Ms. Kurhula Mkansi.

A total of 19 EPWP participants have been recruited into the project for the duration of nine months, starting from February 2022 and ended in November 2022. The participants are receiving both theoretical and practical training in various trades such as bricklaying, plumbing, plastering, painting, concrete

mixing, and reinforcing. Mr. Musiwa Tshivhase, the Site manager from Burewa Trading and Suppliers explained that with the skills transferred, participants are able to do their daily tasks with little supervision. "We regularly inspect the site and the engineers ensure that the site is well maintained. So far we are happy with the participants' work. They are hardworking and respectful" Mr. Tshivhatshe said.

The activities in the construction of the Standerton Labour Centre include refurbishing of an existing old building structure which would be incorporated with the new construction of offices.



The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health in partnership with DPWI has appointed people with disability to assist with the repair of wheelchairs at health facilities in the province

Article and pictures by Sobatini Mahlasela



The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health together with the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Social Sector's incentive Grant have funded Wheelchair Repair Services across the province's health facilities.

The DPWI recently visited one of the health facilities in the township of Umlazi - Prince Mshiyeni Memorial Hospital- to observe the implementation of this programme. At this facility, a total number of 249 wheelchairs and other assistive devices are being repaired and maintained.

In the past years there has been a steady increase in the demand for wheelchair repair services, hence the department has

identified wheelchair repair and maintenance as an intervention and appointed three persons with disabilities as wheelchair repair technicians to assist with this work. The participants have been appointed for a period of three years to assist on the day to day repairs and maintenance of the Assistive devices such as;

- Walking sticks
- Crutches
- Walking frames
- and others such devices

These participants have aided the department in ensuring accessibility of persons with disabilities. The repair and maintenance work ensures increased lifespan use of the current stock of wheelchairs and these assistive devices.

Department of Public Works and Infrastructure in Mpumalanga hosted the National Youth Service exit workshop

Article and pictures by Maanea Maselesele and Lerato Mpiwa



The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) in Mpumalanga hosted the Expanded Public Works (EPWP) National Youth Service (NYS) exit workshop for 29 learners at the Border-Country Inn Restaurant in Lebombo, Mpumalanga Province on the 19th October 2022. The group of learners was divided into two categories, 15 Community House Building and 15 Mechanical (Air-conditioning and Refrigeration). The ceremony was officiated by the Director EPWP NYS Programme, Ms. Lefentse Ratsela from DPWI Head Office.

Learners were recruited into the project in September 2021 for the period of 9 months. For the duration of the project, the participants acquired theoretical and practical training in trades such as Community House Building, Air-Conditioning, and Refrigeration. The learners were further trained in Life Skills activities such as Fire Fighting and First Aid training. The actual daily work breakdown that the learners performed included mechanical work, electrical work, civil work, and construction. The learners gained knowledge and experience through daily work activities such as plumbing, repairing of cracked walls, sanitary fittings maintenance, installation of geysers and air-conditioners, construction of roof truss and thatch roof, tiling & flooring, carpentry & joinery, road, and storm water drainage repairs, paintwork, and glazing.

Ms. Kurhula Mkansi congratulated the participants and commended them for their dedication, hard work, and perseverance that they portrayed throughout the training period. Learners appreciated the opportunity to be part of the programme, “I appreciate the skill that I have acquired through this learnership, “I have learned a lot as an air-conditioning and refrigeration learner” said Ms. Mandisa Ngomane”.

Learners were issued with certificates of completion of training as well as toolboxes to set up their small businesses. The National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) and the EPWP Enterprise Development Unit presented exit opportunities that can assist learners to start their own businesses.

The NYS programme is coordinated by the EPWP Infrastructure sector and seeks to develop and improve the skills of young people in the built environment profession.

Success story

Following the learners' hard work and dedication during the training duration, all 29 learners' contracts were extended for another 12 months by the contractors. The participants' assumption of duty began in June 2022 and will proceed until the end of June 2023.



DPWI hosts EPWP Labour Intensive Construction Workshop in Mpumalanga

Article and Pictures by Michael Mokoena and Pelokazi Baliso



The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) last month hosted the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Labour Intensive Workshop at Nkangala District Municipality in Middleburg, Mpumalanga. The aim of the workshop was to provide municipalities in the province with knowledge on how to create EPWP work opportunities through the use of labour intensive construction (LIC) methods. The two-day meeting was attended by officials from 15 municipalities in the province.

The Deputy Director for EPWP Technical Support in the province, Mr. Bongani Nzuzza commended the municipalities that attended the workshop.

“We are pleased with the interest shown by municipalities towards the EPWP. Our engagements in this workshop have been positive. Some of the municipalities have raised some issues that we will have to engage them further in the near future,” Nzuzza said.

Turning to the workshop, Nzuzza explained that comprehensive issues on the creation of EPWP work opportunities as well as on labour intensive construction methods were covered.

The workshop was also attended by the Director for EPWP Technical Support, Mr. Odwa Tiya whose presentation also shed light on the kind of support provided by DPWI to municipalities

that are implementing the EPWP. “One of the important things that we assist EPWP implementing bodies with is advice on how best to align their projects to labour intensive methods so that they can create the EPWP work opportunities they desire. We also assist implementing bodies to find solutions to challenges they experience in relation to the implementation of the EPWP and LIC,” Tiya said.

He explained that since the start of the current financial year, DPWI has been rolling out these LIC workshops across the country. “We have already conducted five workshops of this nature across the country since the start of the financial year. For next year we are looking at hosting similar workshops in the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, North West, and Northern Cape,” Tiya added.

Participant testimonial

Mr. Zukolenkosi July, Project technician at Ligwa Local municipality under Nkangala District Municipality thanked the EPWP in partnership with International Labour Organization (ILO) for organizing the Labour Intensive workshop. “The workshop has provided us with direction in implementing the EPWP projects in our municipalities” he said.

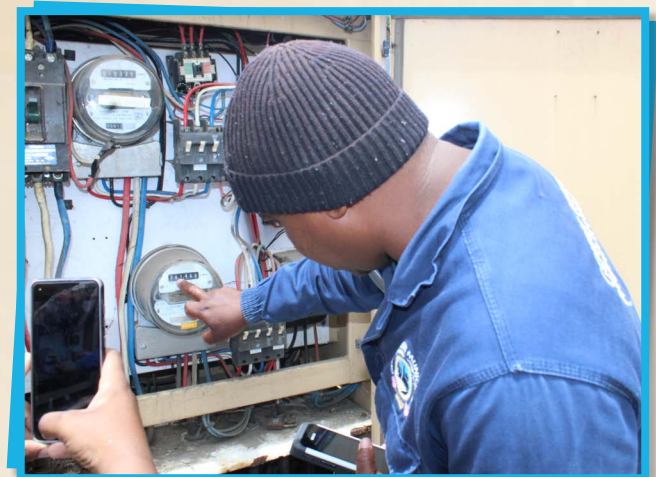


DPWI hosts EPWP strategic management meeting

Article and pictures by Sobatini Mahlasela



The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Branch within the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) recently hosted a Strategic Management at the Central Government Office building (CGO) in Pretoria, Gauteng. The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Director General (DDG), Ms. Carmen-Joy Abrahams, and its aim was to evaluate the progress of the Branch against the annual performance plan and operational plan targets for 2022/23.



The meeting was attended by the Acting Director General of DPWI, Dr. Alec Moemi. In his presentation, Dr. Moemi explained that the EPWP remained a flagship Public Employment Programme which play a critical role in the alleviation of the challenge of high unemployment especially among youth. He said that the Branch should explore ways to work with non-public sector players to massify EPWP. He also encourages the Branch to work with other branches within DPWI to create the much-needed work opportunities.

Community Work Programme participants in De Aar receive FSCA financial literacy training

Article by Michael Mokoena

Pictures by Sandra Mocumi



The Kimberley Regional Office of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) on 07 September 2022 hosted the Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA) training workshop for Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants who are working under the Thembaletu Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) in De Aar, Northern Cape. The participants who received the training work for the NPO under the Community Work Programme (CWP).

The DPWI's EPWP Beneficiary Training Manager for Northern Cape, Ms. Sandra Mocumi explained that the purpose of the Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA) training was to provide and promote financial education and create awareness of financial products, thereby enabling the EPWP participants to make informed financial choices and ultimately improve their standard of lives.

"The FSCA training workshop was well attended by a mix of participants. Majority of the participants were young people and a few older participants who were more interested in topics of insurance covers. The youth were more interested in "Budgeting" and participated well during the workshop. The workshop was an active and working session and participants were also taught how to draft a budget in real life," Mocumi said.

She explained that "De Aar is a small town in the Northern Cape, with a population of 42 000 inhabitants and has fairly high unemployment and poverty levels. Many households are dependent on EPWP project work and other employment in the informal market, hence this training has come a long way and is the first step towards improving their financial wellbeing. The FSCA has made great strides to improve financial literacy rates by making consumer education workshops accessible through intermediaries, thus creating pathways out of poverty.

These workshops focus on our EPWP participants with the aim of improving their financial standing and economic stability," Mocumi said.

She further stated that the purpose of training within the EPWP is to provide and enhance skills of participants working on EPWP projects

"Through the many training interventions, marginalized youth and those that have fallen out of the educational, social and economic mainstream are capacitated. EPWP training also serves as an exit strategy for participants who want to follow a certain career path to enhance sustainable livelihoods, as well as to ensure employability in today's competitive workplace." Mocumi added that a total of 80 participants received this training.



EPWP Gallery

