



Deputy Minister, Hon. Bernice Swarts embarked on an Imbizo at Kestell, Free State to fast track service delivery

Article by Lesego Moretlwe

Pictures by Maanea Maselesele



Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) Deputy Minister, Hon. Bernice Swarts has on 17 November 2022 embarked on an Imbizo in Kestell, Free State to fast track service delivery in the area by providing an oversight role and engage with the community on issues of service delivery. The Deputy Minister was accompanied by MEC of Public Works in Free State, Hon. Dibolelo Mance and Executive Mayor of Maluti a Phofung Local Municipality, Cllr Mamotseare Maria Lakaje-Mosia. The entourage embarked on various sites visit in the areas of Phuthaditjhaba and Kestell within Maluti a Phofung Local Municipality.

The projects visited entailed potholes patching, cleaning of municipal sites in Phuthaditjhaba and the walk about at the Kestell Magistrate Court which is currently under construction. The cleaning project has created 1794 EPWP work opportunities for the communities of Kestell, Phuthaditjhaba and Harrismith. Speaking about the potholes patching project in Phuthaditjhaba, Deputy Minister Swarts indicated that there are programmes which are called war on potholes, “now we are saying Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport in the provinces must really make potholes part of their maintenance plans” she said. The Deputy Minister further said that towards its 20 years of existence, the EPWP remain relevant as it provides work and training opportunities to people who are not able to make it to tertiary institution due to different reasons.

Meanwhile, Deputy Minister Swarts has also visited Kestell Magistrate Court project which is implemented by the DPWI. This project has created National Youth Service (NYS) work opportunities coupled with providing artisans skills to these young people who are contributing to creating this valuable asset which is due to benefit the communities of Kestell and the neighbouring areas. She indicated that the DPWI undertakes the task of bringing the justice services closer to the communities. “Building of Magistrate Courts and High Courts in the townships, closer to communities are intended to provide justice services to the communities and saving the communities money to travel long distance for such services” Deputy Minister said.

The Deputy Minister has emphasised that while the infrastructure projects are implemented, 30% of the projects being implemented has to empower and benefit the local people where the projects are implemented. She pointed out the importance of communities to have valid companies registered with the Construction Industry Development Board and to follow the policy that the government has put in place for local people to benefit from the implementation of such projects.

The Kestell Magistrate Court is anticipated to be completed by the end of the current financial year and once completed, it will be handed over to Department of Justice as the client department for operations where the community will have access to the justice system within their vicinity.

Kwa-Zulu Natal host EPWP Indaba to deliberate on strategies to upscale work opportunities in the province

Article and pictures by Maanea Maselesele and Lerato Mpiwa



The KwaZulu Natal Department of Public Works hosted the 6th Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Annual Indaba at Archie Gumede Conference Centre in Mayville, Durban. The two-day Indaba was held on 23-24 November 2023 under the theme **“Contributing towards improved economy for all.”**

The objectives of the Indaba were to:

- Effectively communicate the EPWP Phase V Policy and requirements;
- Improve EPWP awareness and understanding among all relevant stakeholders, including Municipalities and Provincial Departments;
- Assist Municipalities in increasing the integrated grant allocation by ensuring compliance with all EPWP requirements;
- Develop a long-term strategy to upscale job creation in the KZN province through EPWP;
- Identify quick wins to maximise job creation;
- Develop strategies to overcome barriers to job creation;
- Implement a provincial job creation turnaround strategy; and
- Establish partnerships with State-Owned Entities (SOEs).

The EPWP Deputy Director- General, Mr Ntokozo Chonco presented the EPWP Phase V Design and priorities. He emphasised that the Programme must move with speed to address the challenge of unemployment particularly among young people. As part of project monitoring, the Indaba delegates visited the furniture manufacturing learnership project workshop where EPWP participants were showcasing their wood work.

A total number of 20 learners enrolled for the Furniture Manufacturing Learnership since 03 January 2023 for a period of 12 months. Training Interventions are structured into classroom and workplace training. This learning programme consist of seventeen (17) Unit Standards accredited by the Fibre Processing

and Manufacturing Sector Education and Training Authority (FP&M Seta) at NQF 2.

The following are furniture items that have been successfully manufactured as part of learning, under the supervision and mentoring by well qualified instructors; » School Desks » Bed Headboards » Pedestals » Ottoman » Kitchen Cupboards » Lounge TV Stands » Upholstery

This learnership is an initiative to impart EPWP participants with business knowledge and skills that will enable them to sustainable themselves after they exit the Programmes. As part of the exit strategy the DPWI-EPWP Enterprise Development and Training unit mobilised stakeholders such as:

- National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) for life and business skills and grant funding.
- EDTEA to assist participants with co-Op registration.
- Small Enterprise Finance Agency (SEFA) and (Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) funding and business mentoring.

Ms. Nonhlanhla Mbi who is one of the participants who gained Furniture Making skill; thanked the KZN Department of Public Works for the opportunity received. EPWP Executives from National, Provincial and Local governments signed a pledge of commitment to create over 600 000 EPWP work opportunities in KZN. DPWI is in the process of signing the Memorandum of Understanding with Department of Education to procure office furniture and school desks from participants.

In attendance were Acting HOD: COGTA- Mrs. B Mgutshini, Acting HOD: KZN DPW- Mr. PW Duma, Mayor of Msinga Municipality Cllr. FJ Sikhakhane, Deputy Mayor Cllr. NE Tshabalala Municipal Manager of Okhahlamba, Mr. N Malinga, DDG EPWP: NDPWI- Mr. N Chonco, Ward Councillors of EThekweni Metro, officials from all three (3) spheres of government (National, Provincial and Local) and EPWP Participants.



EPWP Participants graduate as Furniture makers

Article and pictures by: Brian Dlamini



The EPWP participants were trained on specific techniques in furniture making and upholstery. Through their training, they are now able to construct and erect different types of furniture and interpret constructional drawing relative to furniture making. The participants can also apply portable hand machine tools that can produce wood products and metals in furniture.

The KZN Department of Public Works and Human Settlement MEC, Hon. Siphon Nkosi congratulated the graduates for being part of the programme that will help sustain their livelihoods. The MEC also mentioned that the province through the Department of Education would recycle old and broken school furniture using the EPWP participants to create work opportunities. MEC Nkosi encouraged the participants to work as a team and respect each other since they are now registered as cooperatives.

The KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Department of Public Works through the Expanded Public Works has celebrated a remarkable milestone for 17 participants who graduated as Furniture makers.

The furniture manufacturing learnership was implemented as an exit strategy aimed at ensuring that the livelihoods of the EPWP participants are sustained beyond their short-term employment on the EPWP project. The learnership programme was for a period of 12 months and included both theory and practical learning.



Expanded Public Works Programme empowers young people to ensure skilled workforce

Article and pictures By: Mbulelo Theodore Ntetshe



In a world where climate control is indispensable, ensuring a skilled workforce in air-conditioning and refrigeration becomes a mission of paramount importance. The DPWI has therefore recruited and placed four EPWP-NYS learners on a training programme focussing on air-conditioning and refrigeration. These learners participated in the **Facilities Management to Cold Rooms and Air-conditioners** project which was implemented for a period of 24 months. These learners (Jason Sedumedi, Matthew Oliphant, Quinton Mokhuane, and Nosipho Khotseng) have successfully completed the training and are anticipated to graduate before the end of December 2023.

The 12 months training focussed on “Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration.” (HVAC&R) which deals with systems, technologies, and processes involved in controlling the indoor environment of buildings, vehicles, and various enclosed spaces.

Mr Matthew Oliphant who has also benefited from the training said “The most significant challenge during training was grasping the technical aspects of the field. But with dedicated instructors and hands-on practice, I gradually overcame those hurdles. Perseverance was key.”

Beyond the EPWP, these participants are well equipped with a comprehensive technical training and poised to embark on a diverse range of career paths within the HVAC&R sector such as being pioneers and innovators, HVAC&R Technicians, Refrigeration Technicians, HVAC&R Engineers and Energy Efficiency Consultants.

Mr Quinton Mokhuane, envisions his role in the industry and had this to say “I see myself as an advocate for energy-efficient solutions. I want to help clients reduce their energy consumption

and environmental impact while still enjoying the comfort they deserve. It’s about finding that perfect balance and with our country facing load-shedding this route is the way to go.”

Ms Nosipho Khotseng who is the only female participant in the group, said that “becoming an HVAC&R technician means I get to influence how buildings are designed for comfort and sustainability. It is an exciting prospect. I aim to create spaces that are efficient, eco-friendly, and pleasant to be in whilst employing the latest technology the industry has to offer.”

Speaking about this first time ever training opportunity to be offered to the EPWP participants in the Northern Cape, Mr Mbulelo Ntetshe: Deputy Director: NYS & Contractor Development Initiatives in Kimberley Regional Office, Northern Cape said “This project marks the first time the NYS project is implemented for a Facilities Management, outside the traditional construction project. The EPWP is always looking to expand into new areas, this project was such a great opportunity to achieve exactly that. An exit programme intervention is underway for the learners and will see learners exit into an SMME opportunity as they are keen to start their own businesses” Mr Ntetshe explained.

One of the participants, Mr Jason Sedumedi explained his HVAC&R training experience as follows: “My journey was a challenging one, but incredibly rewarding. I learned the ins and outs of air-conditioning and refrigeration, and now I am a certified technician ready to make a difference. It’s been a transformative experience.”

The project sites where this training took place was Kimberley Old Prison, Kimberley Police Station, Kimberley Tswelopele Medium Security Prison and SANDF Diskobolos Military Base.

DPWI Regional Office host National Youth Service Exit Workshop in Gqeberha

Article and pictures by: Sobatini Mahlasela



The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) Regional Office has recently hosted the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) National Youth Service (NYS) Exit Workshop for 15 EPWP participants. These participants acquired accredited training (NQF Level 2) in Bricklaying, Plumbing and Painting. The workshop was held in Gqeberha, Eastern Cape on 13 October 2023.

Speaking to the participants, Ms Lungile Zulu, Deputy Director: NYS Programme at the DPWI Head Office advised participants to look into starting their own businesses and use the skills gained from the training to sustain themselves. The ceremony was officiated by Mr Mziwabantu Ntese, the EPWP Senior Manager in the Eastern Cape Province.

As an exit opportunity, HDM Construction, which was the contractor for the duration of training, has offered five EPWP participants permanent employment within different construction-artisan disciplines. These participants are: Funeka Hewu (Bricklaying), Yonela Afika Boozi (Painter), Sisanda Tinise (Painter), Sibonokuhle Dyafta (Painter), Sindiswa Ngesimane (Bricklayer)

NYS programme concept is built around the involvement of youth within activities which provide benefits to the community whilst developing their abilities through service and learning.



Expanded Public Works Programme create pathways for the security graduates

Article and pictures by Khanyisa Moagi



The Nkangala District Municipality in collaboration with the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), celebrated a milestone of 30 EPWP security learners who graduated on 24 October 2023 in Mpumalanga. These learners completed the Security training programme NQF Level 3 which is accredited by Sector Education & Training Authority (SASSETA).

A total of 120 learners were recruited from all the local municipalities under the Nkangala District Municipality and trained in groups of 4 which comprised of 30 learners each. The group which graduated on the day was group 3 from the overall intake and had a total of 18 men and 12 women. In his words of encouragement to the learners, Mr JP Mangani: General Manager PED he quoted “ He who is not courageous enough to take risks will accomplish nothing in life ~ Muhammed Ali”. The training comprised theory and practical training.

In his Keynote Address, Executive Mayor Mr TD Ngwenya said “We need to make education fashionable”, He also emphasised the need to understand the role of the District Development Model so that all the relevant parties are all able to participate and ensure a better life for all. These security graduates have a role to play in protecting their communities, promoting safety, security and peace in the changing nature of crime in the country.

The EPWP Manager in Mpumalanga, Mr Isaac Mothapo indicated that the graduation ceremony is one of the success stories of the programme as it represents one of the key areas of creating pathways for exit strategy for learners trained under the EPWP.



EPWP conduct Improve Your Business training for contractors in Limpopo

Article and pictures by: Lerato Mpiwa and Maanea Maselesele



The National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure Limpopo Regional Office through Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Enterprise Development (ED) conducted the Improve Your Business (IYB) training programme for contractors at Karibu country Lodge in Tzaneen, Limpopo on 23-27 October 2023.

The IYB Training Programme aims to assist Small Enterprises to be able to sustain their businesses, increase sales and reduce costs. The training was facilitated by Ms Victoria Mphahlele, Deputy Director: EPWP Enterprise Development in Limpopo.

The five-day training was a joint venture between NDPWI-EPWP, International Labour Organization (ILO) and Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB). The training covered

modules such as: Marketing; record keeping and costing for Labour Intensive projects.

Amongst attendees were Contractors from EPWP Vuk'uphile Contractor Development Programme and Limpopo Contractor Development Programme (LCDP) participants. Contractors were enrolled through the CIDB database and are in various levels ranging from level 1 up to level 5. The participants were awarded certificates on the last day of the training.

A total number of 30 contractors from Mopani district have successfully completed their Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) training, and they are now equipped with the knowledge and skills to improve their businesses and create more jobs world.



The EPWP conduct Financial Literacy training to EPWP participants

Article and pictures by: Lerato Mpiwa



The National Department of Public Works through the Expanded Public Works Programme has on 30 October 2023 hosted the Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA) training workshop for the EPWP participants who work under Ubhlebethu 1203 Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) based in Soweto, Gauteng. The workshop was held at Dobsonville Ext 03 in Soweto, Gauteng.

This NPO contributes to improving on prevention strategies for adolescents, young people, women and people living with HIV, affected by Tuberculosis to bring measurable positive outcomes and accessible solutions.

The purpose of the training was to capacitate EPWP participants on financial literacy, focusing on some of the following topics: Budgeting, Life stress, Life experience, SCAMS and Insurance.

In attendance were FSCA officials together with some of the funders from the Financial Services Consumers Education Foundation (FSCEF) and Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) who visited the site to see how the training was conducted.



A bakery project reporting to EPWP Social Sector Successfully supplies daily bread to local stores in Ramokokastad in North West

Article and pictures by: Kgomotso Mathuloe



Officials from the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure and Moses Kotane Local Municipality visited a bakery project in Ramokokastad in North West recently. The project which is supported by the Moses Kotane local municipality by paying the stipend to the participants reports under the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Social sector.

The bakery with its limited resources is able to produce 80 loaves of bread per day and they supply to 7 stores in the Ramokokastad area. The Manager of the bakery, Mr Bongani Zulu said the project commenced two years ago. "We are a cooperative of three people and we have volunteers coming to assist at the bakery. Said Mr Zulu.

The Moses Kotane Local Municipality intends linking the cooperative members with the with the Department of Economic Development to provide further training to this Small Business in order to ensure its sustainability.

Mr Zulu said he has received the Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) training. SIYB is a training initiative by DPWI together with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to equip EPWP participants with skills to start and sustain their small businesses.

The Bakery is currently being operated from Mr Zulu home and his dream is to operate at a shopping centre.



EPWP Gallery

