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Minister Macpherson officiates the Expanded Public Works Programme Graduation Ceremony and embarks on a listening tour in Gauteng

Article by Tumelo Sekwele

Pictures by Kagiso Mootane



Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Dean Macpherson has on 13 June 2025 embarked on the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Listening Tour at the Disaster Management Centre in Johannesburg. The objective of the listening tour was to hear the concerns of communities and to pave the way for a re-imagined programme that will restore the dignity of EPWP participants.

Alongside the Listening Tour, the Minister has also officiated the graduation ceremony of over 100 National Youth Service (NYS) participants who obtained qualifications in various artisan trades such as civil, electrical, and mechanical engineering. The Acting Deputy Director General for EPWP, Mr. Molatelo Moremi, outlined the objectives of the event and mentioned that it was an opportunity for participants to interact with the Minister about the challenges they face in the programme. "This engagement will also inform policy reform and guide the necessary strategies to navigate those challenges and improve the programme and to celebrate NYS graduates who will be getting their certificates today" Mr Moremi said.

Among the challenges raised by the participants were unfair recruitment, corruption, and low income wage, limited resources

to fulfil their duties and restricted access to opportunities for people older than 35 years.

While delivering the keynote address and responding to issues raised, Minister Macpherson emphasised the importance of recognising and acknowledging young people by creating opportunities for them so that they can work in both the private and public sectors upon exiting the programme. The Minister further highlighted that the purpose of the listening tour was to facilitate meaningful conversations about EPWP, enabling its reform and sustainability for the next 20 years.

"We want to move EPWP beyond short-termism and political tokenism, and towards dignity, skills, and meaningful pathways into the economy," said Minister Macpherson.

Minister Macpherson thanked all who took the opportunity to share their views on the challenges they face in the programme. He emphasized that dignity, fairness, and transparency will be the three key pillars moving forward. Transparent processes should be implemented to make it easier for participants to take part and to ensure that opportunities are available in all wards. The

Minister also stressed the importance of equal opportunity for all age groups. Additionally, he touched on the progress made in assisting victims of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF), noting that the department has allocated 15 shelters in Mpumalanga and Gauteng to support those affected by the GBVF pandemic.

Chief Director for Infrastructure Sector, Mr. Ignitus Ariyo, delivered a vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all stakeholders

in attendance, including the Honourable Minister and Acting DDG for Corporate Services, Ms. Carmen Jaye Abrahams.

The event was attended by representatives from the national and regional Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI), as well as local municipalities. Deputy Director General for Expanded Public Works Programme [EPWP], Mr. Molatelo Moremi, Officiates Ministerial Listening Tour and Graduation Ceremony in Gauteng



The Expanded Public Works Programme participant exit into formal employment

Article and pictures by:
Oageng Mathenje



Ms. Tshegofatso Sarah Mogapi, 31 years old, from Huhudi Township in Vryburg-North West, is a former Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participant who has successfully transitioned to a permanent position as a South African Police Service (SAPS) Constable at Huhudi Police Station.

She joined the EPWP in May 2018 after graduating from the University of North West with a Bachelor's degree in Social Science and Population Studies. During her 12-month contract as a data capturer her responsibilities included water meter reading, household data collection, and meter inspection to ensure the accuracy of residential household data. This opportunity was made possible through the 1% incentive grant allocated to provinces, aimed at alleviating poverty by creating work opportunities.

Ms. Mogapi's determination and hard work enabled her to apply for formal employment and secured a permanent position with the South African Police Service as a Constable in 2022. Her current duties involve crime prevention, law enforcement, crime investigation, and addressing the root causes of crime.

Ms Mogapi still values the EPWP work opportunity which introduced her to the workplace and enhanced her interpersonal skills. "Make sure you are surrounded by friends who encourage you to be a better person in the future," said Ms. Mogapi. She emphasized that she learned many skills during her tenure in the EPWP, which significantly contributed to her success as a proud police officer.

Executive Mayor hand-over Certificates of Competence to EPWP participants in Bushbuckridge

Article by: Brian Dlamini

Pictures by Oageng Mathenje



In a celebration of skills development and community empowerment, the Executive Mayor of Bushbuckridge Local Municipality, Cllr. Matlanatso Lydia Moroane, officially handed over Certificates of Competence to 100 participants of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) during a ceremony held at Thulamahashe Community Hall on the 13th of June 2025.

The participants successfully completed training for the National Certificate in Environmental Practice (NQF Level 2), marking an important breakthrough in their professional and personal development.

Speaking at the event, Executive Mayor Moroane praised the participants for their dedication and commitment, emphasizing the importance of skills development in addressing unemployment within communities.

"This qualification not only empowers individuals with knowledge in environmental management but also equips them with the skills

needed to contribute meaningfully to sustainable development and environmental preservation in our municipality," said Executive Mayor Moroane.

The training initiative, aligned with national goals of job creation and environmental awareness, reflects the municipality's ongoing commitment to building a skilled and capable workforce through the EPWP.

Family members, community leaders, and government officials gathered to witness the handover, celebrating the achievements of the graduates and the broader impact of the programme.

The Bushbuckridge Local Municipality continues to support such initiatives as part of its integrated development strategy, ensuring that opportunities for growth and learning reach even the most rural areas.



A beacon of hope to homeless people through dignified shelter and EPWP employment

Article and Pictures Tumelo Sekwele

Pictures by: Tumelo Sekwele



In an effort to tackle homelessness within its boundaries, City of Cape Town devised an intervention strategy that seeks to uplift lives of the homeless people. The City-funded Safe Spaces offer these individuals dignified transitional shelter and social programmes to assist them off the streets sustainably, reintegrate them into society, and reunite them with their families. In addition to this, the City provides them with personal development planning, employment opportunities as well as referrals for healthcare services and substance abuse treatment.

Three safe spaces have been established in the city to house the homeless and these are Culemborg, Paint City and Durbanville safe spaces. The Culemborg Safe Space is situated in the east Central Business District and is equipped with 510 beds. The Paint City is situated in Bellville with 220 beds and Durbanville with 40 beds. The Culemborg facility houses about 280 formerly homeless individuals and has employed five Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants to manage the center.

Ms. Megan Pangeni, who is the head of the Street People Programme within the City, mentioned that there are in total five safe space centers in the city such.

The City's Safe Space model provides the following services to its beneficiaries:

- Dignified shelter,
- Comfort and ablutions,
- Two meals per day,
- Access to a social worker on-site,
- Personal development planning,
- Various social services including ID Book and social grant assistance,
- Family reunification services
- Access to substance and alcohol abuse treatment,
- Skills training,
- Help finding a job, and
- Access to EPWP work placement

Individuals residing at the establishment have the duty to perform various responsibilities such as cleaning, gardening, and administrative duties. This initiative is known as Economic Work Programme due to their focus on engaging residents in income-generating activities and providing them with fortnightly stipends. Aliyah Makhubele, a resident at Culemborg Safe Space 2 and EPWP Participant, expressed her gratitude for being part of the Programme that is geared towards assisting her to stand on her own feet, as she was able to obtain her matric certificate and send money to her family.



EPWP empowers participants with enterpreneurial and financial skills

Article and Pictures by:

Tumelo Sekwele and Maanea Maselesele



The Expanded Public Works (EPWP) has recently hosted Financial Services Conduct Authority (FSCA), Start and improve your business (SIYB) training for the EPWP participants in Mmakau village North West. The Participants are on a 12 months contract ending 31 March 2025.

The five-day training which took place at Madibeng Local Municipality was a joint venture between the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) and the North West Department of Economic Development, Environment, conservation and Tourism (DEDECT). This was to respond to the EPWP Key Priorities areas which were adopted in 2024.

Participants were recruited under Waste Management Programme recyclers. The objective of the programme is to empower the Community and encourage recycling of waste material which will also present opportunities to earn income and combat poverty.

The training was facilitated by Ms Rhoda Moroe and Mr Jimmy Mbhokoda. The training covered the following modules:

- Cost planning
- Start up capital
- Financial planning
- Finalise your business plan

The Project Manager Mr. Vincent Mmamathaba from Mmabatho Regional Office commended the participants for the cooperation throughout the duration of the contract and the good service they have provided for the community and local schools.



“Thank you so much for your contributions to service delivery in the Municipality, and the awareness campaigns you conducted at various schools to educate learners about waste management issues. Continue to do the good work and keep the environment clean and safe “ Mr Mamathaba said.

Participant and Director from Thrive Development project “Ms Tisetso Motheane extended her appreciation for the training as it expanded her knowledge on how to start her own business.

At the end of the training participants were awarded with certificate of attendance

Success good stories:

The DPWI Mmabatho Regional Office under EPWP Environment & Culture sector has entered into an Agreement with Petco to further train this passionate participants in waste handling.



EPWP participants in Limpopo Non-Profit Organisations receive basic financial literacy training

Article and pictures by:

Melika Nkuna (Limpopo Regional Office)



Department of Public Works and Infrastructure Regional Office in Limpopo EPWP Training Unit, conducted a one-month financial training for over one thousand EPWP participants in Limpopo. The training was aimed at providing Basic Financial Literacy for the participants working at 26 Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs) and covered the following modules

- Financial institutions and different financial products
- Financial stress
- Needs and Wants
- How to draw the budget
- Savings
- Scams
- Complaints procedure
- Unclaimed benefits

The Limpopo Training Unit team is actively responding to the call for improved financial literacy within the EPWP framework, ensuring that participants are better prepared to manage their finances effectively.

“Consequently, this initiative is expected not only to benefit the participants directly but also to contribute positively to the broader community by fostering a culture of informed financial decision-making, said Ms Phuti Ngoasheng, The EPWP Training Manager in Limpopo.

The workshop provided valuable tips about developing solid financial habits where participants will explore various elements that lead to financial stress and discovered the resources available for those dealing with tough economic situations. The session covered practical skills such as budgeting and distinguishing between needs and wants, along with general financial advice.

Additionally, attendees received guidance about avoiding scams and learning about any unclaimed benefits that might be available to them. The workshops also offered support on how to file complaints if any problems arise, making sure everyone feels equipped to handle their financial matters with confidence.

Ms. Margaret Letsoalo, a director at Golang-Kulani Early Learning Centre, expressed her gratitude for the valuable insights shared during the workshop with the EPWP participants. She noted that many participants are grappling with financial difficulties, largely due to a lack of understanding in financial management. This workshop was timely and provided essential knowledge that could help alleviate their financial challenges.

Speaking on behalf of participants, Mr. Jabulani Chauke, a participant in the Dzekula Development Organisation, conveyed significant insights regarding the workshop. He underscored the necessity of scrutinizing his expenditure patterns and stressed the importance of distinguishing between essential needs and discretionary wants when formulating a budget. “This newfound understanding will enable us to take charge of our financial situation and make well-informed choices as we progress, and dangers associated with accruing debt, recognizing that it can result in considerable financial pressure” added Chauke.

The training workshops were conducted in partnership with the Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA), displaying a commitment to enhancing financial knowledge and competencies among participants. The Limpopo EPWP training is led by Ms Phuti Ngoasheng (Training Manager) unit and Ms Mosima Ndlazi (Deputy Director: Non-State Sector).

Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality paves the way for young people to attain work experience through EPWP social sector

Article and pictures by:
Thembele Sehlapelo



Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality in the Northern Cape has made work opportunities available in the EPWP Social Sector for youth to gain skills and experience in various fields. The District Municipality which is located in the heart of the Northern Cape, comprises of eight local municipalities: Ubuntu, Umsobomvu, Emthanjeni, Kareeberg, Renosterberg, Thembelihle, Siyathemba and Siyancuma. Its main town is De Aar.

In the past the District Municipality was approached by many young people seeking to do practical work and gain experience which would allow them to complete their studies. These young people were studying in various collages within the municipality and because of limited opportunities for placement for practical

they found it difficult to complete their studies. The District Municipality then came in to fill that gap and open its doors for young people to do their practical work to gain experience and complete their studies.

The Office Support Workers programme was then conceptualised and targeted young people who had completed their collage studies to participate in the EPWP Social Sector. These young people are appointed on a twelve-month contract and are placed in various components/units of the municipality such as Human Resource, Local Economic Development, Municipal Health Services, etc.



EPWP social sector appoints Library Assistants to help learners and community members with library services

Article and pictures by:
Masego Maselwanyane



Nkomazi Local Municipality is one of the municipalities in Mpumalanga province participating in the EPWP Social Sector through various programmes. The municipality plays many developmental roles in its communities such as Malelane village where the Social Sector Library Assistants services is implemented. This Library Assistant services was introduced few years ago as the municipality identified community members' and learners' need and interest in accessing in library services. At the time, there was only one Librarian assisting learners of five schools who needed library services on a daily basis.

Providing library services and ensuring access of the services to the children is both the responsibility of the Department of Arts, Culture and Sports and the Local Municipality. Due to the high demand of library services by school learners and the community in general, the municipality came into partnership with the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure by appointing

three Library Assistants under the EPWP Social Sector. The three participants are appointed on a twelve month contract and are earning an in compliant to EPWP wage rate.

The project has two sites, one in Malelane and one in Langoop. The participants work 22 days in a month and their responsibilities include: statistics compilations on a daily basis, shelving books and packing books in an orderly manner.

All three participants received EPWP training on Financial Literacy (FSCA). The project is funded through EPWP Integrated Incentive Grant. One of the participants, Gloria Tibane who has a Diploma in Public Management expressed gratitude for being part of the Programme and gaining the much needed work experience. She indicated that the working environment in the library is healthy and still looking forward to room for growth.

Greater Tzaneen EPWP participants complete Environmental Practice learnership

Article and pictures by:
Tsakani Maringa



The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) continues to make strides in empowering communities through skills development, as 25 participants from Greater Tzaneen Municipality have successfully completed a learnership in National Certificate: Environmental Practice (NQF Level 2). This training was delivered under the Integrated Grant-Rural Waste Management Project, a strategic intervention addressing critical service delivery needs in rural areas.

Participants were drawn from four rural clusters within Greater Tzaneen Municipality, Bulamahlo, Lesedi, Relela, and Runnymede. Each cluster is led by a designated supervisor who oversees waste management work across several wards. With 80% of the municipality's 34 wards classified as rural, the project plays a vital role in promoting environmental stewardship and sustainable service delivery.

The learnership, accredited by LGSETA, was facilitated by Masakhane Training and Consultants, appointed by the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) Head Office. Training content was aligned with key unit standards essential for environmental health and safety, including:

- Performing basic first aid
- Separating, handling, storing, treating, and transporting waste
- Addressing environmental impacts
- Managing and caring for materials and resources that affect health and the environment

Participants welcomed the training, which enhanced both their technical knowledge and practical understanding of their roles within their communities.

"The training has opened my eyes and enhanced my knowledge when it comes to waste management. I am confident that if I

were to be employed permanently by the municipality, I would make a meaningful difference by applying what I've learned," said Ms Vathiswa Benjamin from Pharare Village in the Bulamahlo cluster. "I also hope we will be given the opportunity to progress to Level 3."

Supervisors also reported significant value from the training. Ms Nurse Mmola, who oversees the Lesedi cluster, reflected:

"As a supervisor, I now have a better understanding of the work I do with my team. I know what is expected in terms of deliverables, and I am better equipped to support and monitor performance. Reporting has also become more effective, as I can now expand on the technical aspects of the work. The training has truly been a blessing."

Ms Londiwe Buthelezi of Masakhane Training and Consultants expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to contribute to national development efforts:

"It has been an honour to partner with the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure to deliver this important training. I would also like to thank the Limpopo Regional Office, particularly the training team led by Ms Phuti Ngoasheng, for their unwavering support throughout the process. Most importantly, I commend the participants for their dedication and active engagement during the training."

This learnership marks a significant step toward capacitating rural communities with the skills needed to manage waste responsibly, protect the environment, and contribute meaningfully to the green economy.

EPWP Gallery

