



Building Better Communities

# EPWP NEWSLETTER

March 2026 - edition



## EPWP DDG

Carmen Joy Abrahams, presents  
Quarter 3 performance and progress at  
DPWI MinMEC

**Portfolio Committee  
on Public Works and  
Infrastructure** Welcomes  
the DPWI Performance

**Building Future,  
Strengthening Communities**



## Content:

- 01 EPWP DDG , Carmen Joy Abrahams, presents Quarter 3 performance and progress at DPWI MinMEC
- 02 Minister Dean Macpherson Leads Expanded Public Works Programme Listening Tour in Eastern Cape
- 03 Portfolio Committee on Public Works and Infrastructure Welcomes the EPWP Performance
- 04 Iraq Delegation Visits South Africa to Explore Best Practices in Public Employment Programmes
- 05 - 06 Centre Spread
- 07 Department of Public Works and Infrastructure Hosts Stakeholder Consultation Workshop on the Vuk'Uphile Contractor Development Programme
- 08 Building Future, Strengthening Communities
- 09 Whisking Up Opportunities: Empowering Communities through Baking
- 10 EPWP Participants Trained in General Residential Repair
- 11 Mpumalanga EPWP Integrated Grant Workshop
- 12 EPWP Continues to Make a Positive Impact Through Targeted Skills Development
- 13 Blouberg Local Municipality Participants Acquire Training in Environmental Practice
- 14 National Youth Service Impact Evaluation Highlights

## Contributors:

### Writers:

Brian Dlamini  
 Kagiso Mootane  
 Khanyisa Moagi  
 K. Sivhugwana  
 K. Zantsi  
 Maanea Maselesele  
 Oageng Mathenje  
 Roslyn Mahlaole  
 Tumelo Sekwele  
 Tsakani Maringa

### Photography:

Kagiso Mootane  
 Khanyisa Moagi  
 Maanea Maselesele  
 Oageng Mathenje  
 Roslyn Mahlaole  
 Tumelo Sekwele  
 Tsakani Maringa

### Layout & Design:

Oageng Mathenje  
 Thabiso Kutu

### Publication Manager:

Brian Dlamini

### Editors:

Kgomotso Mathuloe  
 Lesego Moretlwe

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**Know your EPWP:**  
 Expanded Public Works Programme consist of 4 sectors

**INFRASTRUCTURE  
 SECTOR**

**NON-STATE SECTOR**

**ENVIRONMENTAL &  
 CULTURAL SECTOR**

**SOCIAL SECTOR**

Infrastructure Sector Enquires:  
 Odwa Tiya - Tel: +27(12) 492 1408  
 Email: odwa.tiya@dpw.gov.za

Non-State Sector Enquires:  
 Mosima Ndlanzi - Tel: +27(12) 494 1431  
 Email: mosima.ndlanzi@dpw.gov.za

Environment & Culture Sector Enquires:  
 Tel: +27(12) 492 1423

Social Sector Enquires:  
 Masego Maselwanyane - Tel: +27(12) 406 1354  
 Email: masego.mselwanyane@dpw.gov.za

Physical Address  
 226 Pretorius Street  
 Between Lillian Ngoyi (Van Der Walt) and Thabo Sehume (Andries)  
 Centre Walk Building  
 Pretoria

# EPWP DDG , Carmen Joy Abrahams, presents Quarter 3 performance and progress at DPWI MinMEC

Article by: Maanea Maselesele  
Photography by: Caroline Mokotedi



The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) continues to demonstrate steady delivery, inclusive participation, and growing impact. This was outlined by DDG EPWP, Carmen Joy Abrahams during the DPWI MinMEC meeting held in Mpumalanga from 26 to 27 March 2026, where Quarter 3 performance for the 2025/26 financial year was presented.

The meeting took place at the ANEW Resort White River and was chaired by the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Dean Macpherson, MINMEC serves as a strategic platform that brings together national and provincial leadership to strengthen coordination, align priorities, and accelerate infrastructure delivery and public employment programmes across all spheres of government.

Deputy Director-General Carmen Joy Abrahams welcomed the Minister's remarks on EPWP reform, highlighting that the reforms will further strengthen delivery, improve coordination, and ensure greater impact in creating sustainable work opportunities. As per the presentation, by the end of Quarter 3 of the 2025/26 financial year, the programme created over 806 000 work opportunities, exceeding the quarterly target and reaching nearly 80 percent of its annual target.

This reflects steady implementation and the programme's continued contribution to addressing unemployment. Performance across provinces and municipalities remains strong. Provinces continue

to drive large-scale delivery, particularly through infrastructure programmes, while municipalities have achieved over 97 percent of their annual targets, reflecting improved implementation at local level.

The EPWP continues to advance inclusive participation, with women accounting for more than 70 percent of beneficiaries, exceeding the set target. Increased focus on longer work durations and skills development is further enhancing the quality and sustainability of opportunities created.

A notable highlight is the Durban High Court redevelopment project, which demonstrates how infrastructure delivery can be effectively integrated with skills development, youth empowerment, and employment creation.

The MINMEC meeting was attended by the Deputy Minister, Members of Executive Councils for Public Works and Infrastructure from all nine provinces, Heads of Department, senior government officials, and representatives from DPWI entities. Overall, the Quarter 3 performance reflects strong delivery and growing impact, reinforcing the EPWP's role in advancing inclusive economic participation and sustainable livelihoods.



# Minister Dean Macpherson Leads Expanded Public Works Programme Listening Tour in Eastern Cape

Article by: Kagiso Mootane

Photography by: Kagiso Mootane



Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Dean Macpherson has on 16 March 2026 hosted the Expanded Public Works Programme Listening Tour at Beyers Naudé Local Municipality in Robert Sobukwe Town-Eastern Cape.

The Minister engaged with community members and participants to gain insights about their experiences in the Programme and how the EPWP is creating pathways to employment and supporting sustainable livelihoods.

Among other delegates, the Minister was joined by MEC for Public Works, Infrastructure and Human Settlements, Ms Siphokazi Lusithi, and the Speaker of Dr Beyers Naude Local Municipality, Mr Cheslin Felix.

MEC Siphokazi Lusithi emphasised the importance of the EPWP as a platform that can change lives, fight poverty and reduce inequality. She highlighted that the programme should not only provide temporary work opportunities but also equip participants with practical skills to improve their future employment prospects.

The Listening Tour brought together a total 162 EPWP participants, community members, and relevant stakeholders. High levels of poverty and unemployment in many communities indicate that more still needs to be done. The attendees listened carefully to feedback for improvement to strengthen the programme's impact.

The EPWP Listening Tour formed part of ongoing efforts by the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure to ensure that the EPWP continues to create meaningful work opportunities. The sessions also aimed to rebuild trust between government and communities. Community members were able to raise concerns, provide suggestions, and engage directly with officials.

Ms Khanyi White, an EPWP participant, shared her personal experience in the programme as a plumbing trainee under the National Youth Service (NYS), highlighting the skills she gained and the positive impact it has had on her life. She explained that the Programme provided her with practical experience in plumbing and that receiving her first certificate after six months was a proud achievement.

Ms White expressed appreciation for the opportunity, describing the programme as an important step in developing her skills, enhancing her future career prospects, and building confidence in her trade. Her testimony highlighted the tangible benefits of the EPWP and demonstrated the value of government programmes in addressing unemployment and supporting sustainable livelihoods.



# Portfolio Committee on Public Works and Infrastructure Welcomes the EPWP Performance

Article by: Lesego Moretlwe

Photography by: Tumelo Sekwele



The Portfolio Committee on Public Works and Infrastructure has recently embarked on a four-day oversight visit in Mpumalanga province. The visit took place from 03- 06 February 2026. The objective of the portfolio committee visit was to provide an oversight role into the department's work by evaluating the implementation of the Infrastructure projects against the timeframes, financial performance, and compliance requirements while ensuring value for money.

It also oversees the coordination and implementation of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) with regards to job creation and skills development. This oversight visit was concluded on a positive note as the Committee commended a sterling performance of the EPWP on the effective and efficient construction of the Verena C bus project in Nkangala District Municipality. The Verena Bus service is a multi-year project which started in 2024/2025 and anticipated to be completed in the 2026/2027 financial year with a budget allocation of R44.7 million. This project is funded through the Municipal Infrastructure Grant and implemented by Thembisile Hani Local Municipality within Nkangala District Municipality.

The project is aimed at improving traffic movement and protecting Infrastructure by preventing storm water damage. It is benefitting 2100 households by improving mobility and has created 35 EPWP work opportunities with an inclusion of women, youth and people with disabilities. A total of 16 subcontractors were also appointed to execute the project and thus contribute to local economic development. The project also enhances Programme exit strategies which include opportunities for Participants' training and small business development.

Speaking about the Verena C Bus project progress, the chairperson of the Committee, Ms Carol Phiri highlighted that “today, we are thrilled to be on-site and experience the quality delivery of a 2.4 km pavement road in Verena. This reflects a true meaning of value for

money and community development. We are therefore advocating for more funding to be allocated to Thembisile Hani Local Municipality to implement more infrastructure projects of this nature”, said Ms Phiri. The committee also visited the Mapulaneng hospital in Ehlanzeni District Municipality, Mpumalanga High Court in Mbombela, as well as the Standerton Police Station in the Gert Sibande District Municipality. Once completed, the Mapulaneng hospital will serve as a regional referral hospital, enhancing efficient and effective healthcare services for those in need. Through the construction of this facility, a total of 820 work opportunities have been created.

Meanwhile, the Mpumalanga high court plays a critical role in providing access to justice for the Mpumalanga residents across all regions. However, the structural defects obstruct the smooth running of the court. Once the identified structural defects such as roof leakages are addressed, this facility will provide seamless access to justice. During an oversight visit in Standerton, the Portfolio Committee condemned the illegal occupation of state houses which could be used for the community benefit.

In her concluding remarks, Ms Phiri said that despite the irregularities identified at the Mapulaneng hospital in Ehlanzeni District and Mpumalanga High Court, “these are the state of the art buildings delivered by the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) for our communities”. Ms Phiri further requested DPWI to take immediate action to address issues raised.

Leading the DPWI was Head of Property Management Trading Entity (PMTE) Mr Siza Sibande who acknowledged the concerns raised by the committee and made a commitment that the DPWI will act accordingly to resolve those issues.

# Iraq Delegation Visits South Africa to Explore Best Practices in Public Employment Programmes

Article by: Tumelo Sekwele

Photography by: Maanea Maselesele



A high-level delegation from Iraq visited the Republic of South Africa on 11 February 2026 to participate in a Knowledge Exchange Programme aimed at learning about the success of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and exploring best practices in public employment and inclusive economic development initiatives.

The objective of the visit was to provide a platform for both countries to share knowledge, methodologies, and best practices in the implementation of Public Employment Programmes, with particular emphasis on the infrastructure sector of the EPWP. Senior officials from the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI), the International Labour Organization (ILO), and lead sector departments welcomed the Iraqi delegation. The engagement highlighted the significant global role that Public Employment Programmes play in poverty alleviation, job creation, and community upliftment.

During their visit, the delegation toured various National Youth Service and labour-intensive infrastructure projects in both Gauteng and Eastern Cape. These included the 4.5-kilometre K50 (Garsfontein Road) project, as well as a large-scale integrated housing development project in Olifantsfontein.

Speaking during the engagement, the Deputy Director-General for EPWP, Carmen Jacobs Abrahams, stated: “We are honoured to host such a high-level delegation in the country. “She further explained that the purpose of the exchange was to create a platform for mutual learning through shared knowledge, experiences, and practical implementation models. As part of the study tour, the

delegation also visited the Umnyameni Plantation in Qoboqobo, located within the Mount Coke Estate. The project is implemented by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) under the EPWP Environment and Culture Sector.

Through the EPWP, the project has created 55 work opportunities for local community members. Participants receive structured in-house training in forestry operations, safety protocols, and fire management techniques, equipping them with practical skills that enhance their employability beyond the programme. Daily activities include clearing invasive species, pruning and planting trees, maintaining roads and firebreaks, conducting coppice reduction, and performing forest monitoring.

The delegation also visited the Household Contractors Programme in Dimbaza. This initiative is implemented by the Eastern Cape Provincial Department of Transport under the national “S’hamba Sonke” (“Moving Together”) programme. The project has recruited 25 EPWP participants, including persons with disabilities.

Speaking during the engagement, the EPWP Programme Manager in the Eastern Cape, Mziwababantu Ntese, expressed appreciation for the opportunity to host the delegation and share South Africa’s experience in public employment programmes.





# public works & infrastructure

Department:  
Public Works and Infrastructure  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME



# Department of Public Works and Infrastructure Hosts Stakeholder Consultation Workshop on the Vuk'Uphile Contractor Development Programme

Article by: Kagiso Mootane

Photography by: Kagiso Mootane



The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI), through its Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), recently hosted a two-day virtual Stakeholder Consultation Workshop on the Vuk'uphile Contractor Development Programme. The workshop focused on reviewing the Vuk'uphile Programme Plan to enhance its effectiveness in developing emerging contractors into sustainable businesses capable of operating independently beyond the programme.

The Deputy Director-General (DDG) of the EPWP, Carmen-Joy Abrahams, opened the session by welcoming delegates and reflecting on the evolution of the Vuk'uphile Programme since 2004. She highlighted its focus on creating work opportunities through labour-intensive construction methods and its contribution to job creation in the infrastructure sector. Ms Abrahams emphasised the importance of continuous stakeholder engagement and the need to ensure that at least 25% of participating contractors remain operational after completing the programme.

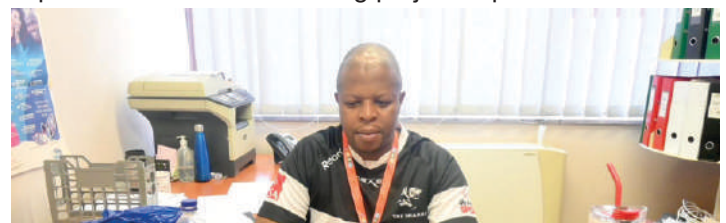
Kgomotsego Boikanyo from the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) outlined the organisation's role in the National Contractor Development Programme (NCDP), focusing on structured training and certification. She also highlighted the introduction of the Certificate in Construction Management, offered in partnership with the University of Johannesburg and the University of the Free State. The certificate programme consists of six modules, including two compulsory courses: Construction Procurement Management and Construction Project Management. The four elective courses include Construction Contract Management, Building Standards, Innovation Management, and Digitalisation.

The Vuk'uphile Programme Manager, Muziwandile Thwala, outlined the role of the DPWI and its partners in supporting contractors through both the NCDP and the Vuk'uphile Programme. He explained that the NCDP is designed to help contractors improve their grading, performance, quality, and ownership.

He further noted that the Vuk'uphile Programme goes beyond contractor training. It contributes to job creation, skills development, and supports contractors to remain competitive in the market after completing the programme. Through structured training, mentorship, and effective programme management, the Department aims to build stronger contractors, strengthen the construction industry, and expand opportunities for women, youth, and persons with disabilities. The programme also promotes labour-intensive methods by balancing the use of workers and machinery. It includes transformation targets of 50% women, 50% youth, and 2% persons with disabilities.

The Chief Director of the EPWP, Ignatius Ariyo, concluded the workshop by highlighting both the achievements and challenges of the Vuk'uphile Programme. He emphasised its role in developing skilled, labour-intensive contractors and supporting their long-term sustainability within the construction industry.

Mr Ariyo further stressed that mentors must possess adequate experience and should not be replaced with less experienced individuals during project implementation.



# Building Future, Strengthening Communities

Article by: Roslyn Mahlaole

Photography by: Roslyn Mahlaole



The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Social Sector, in partnership with the North West Department of Community Safety and Transport Management, continues to create meaningful opportunities for unemployed community members through skills development and training programmes.

During the 2024–2025 financial year, EPWP participants in the North West Province were contracted as safety patrollers and were given the opportunity to receive security training accredited by the Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority (PSIRA). As a result, the programme has produced encouraging results, with 16 former EPWP participants successfully securing employment as security officers at Sinqobile Equestrian Security Company.

The company is now embarking on firearm training to further enhance the participants' skills in the guarding and protection field. All 16 security officers are placed at Makwassie Police Station and Leeudoringstad Police Station, where they work together with the South African Police Service (SAPS) to combat cable theft activities at railway stations.

Their appointment demonstrates the positive impact of skills development initiatives in empowering participants for permanent employment. Their transition from EPWP participants to employed security officers highlights the programme's role in improving livelihoods and

strengthening community safety.

The success of these 16 security officers serves as an inspiration to current participants and a reminder that skills development can lead to a brighter and more secure future.

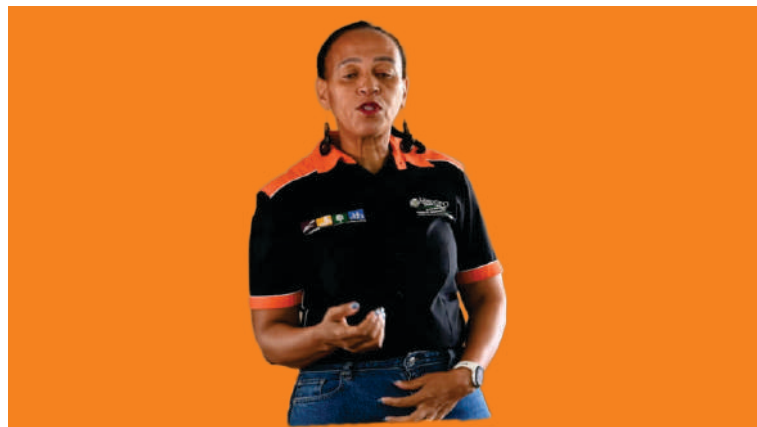
One of the participants, Ms Sephanyane, said, “I would like to thank all the stakeholders for the great opportunity I received.” She expressed sincere gratitude, noting that she is now employed because of the positive impact the programme has made on her life.

This is a life-changing opportunity that goes beyond the stipend received, as it provides participants with valuable skills they can use even after exiting the programme, in line with the mandate of the current EPWP phase.



# Whisking Up Opportunities: Empowering Communities through Baking

Article by: Roslyn Mahlaole  
Photography by: Roslyn Mahlaole



The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Social Sector, in partnership with the Limpopo Department of Education, has embarked on a baking skills training programme aimed at empowering 50 EPWP participants with practical and entrepreneurial skills. The project, which commenced in April 2025 under the coordination and leadership of Ms Mmamotshabo Kganyago from the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure and Ms Avheani Madzhiya from the Department of Social Development, is set to conclude in March 2026. This initiative forms part of ongoing efforts to promote skills development and sustainable livelihoods within communities.

During a training site visit, Ms Sanny Maluleka, EPWP Training Manager, conducted an assessment of the progress and outcomes of the programme. During her visit, she engaged with participants and facilitators, emphasising the importance of training for both stakeholders. She encouraged the trainees to remain focused and dedicated, highlighting that the skills acquired through the programme could enable them to start and manage their own baking businesses in the future.

The visit was also attended by a representative from EPWP Enterprise Development, Ms Victoria Mphahlele, who provided valuable insight into Enterprise Development, including the “Start Your Business” (SYB) concept. The session emphasised the importance of business planning, financial

management, and market research as essential tools for turning baking skills into viable income-generating enterprises.

The project coordinator from the Limpopo Department of Education, Ms Abigail Manaka, further motivated participants by emphasising that the training presents a meaningful opportunity to improve their lives and achieve greater economic independence. She encouraged them to make full use of the resources and support provided throughout the programme.

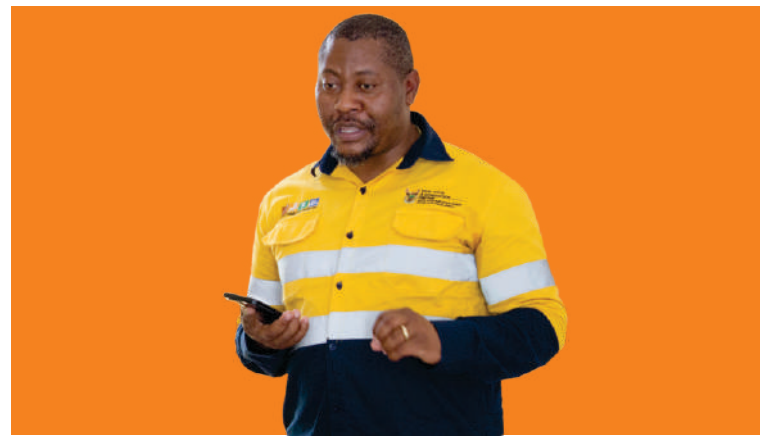
EPWP participant Ms Ivy Madire expressed her gratitude to EPWP for the stipend received during the training period. She said, “The financial support has made a significant difference in my life, helping to ease household burdens while I am focusing on developing my skills in baking.”

Through this collaborative initiative, the EPWP Social Sector and the Limpopo Department of Education continue to demonstrate their commitment to empowering communities, reducing unemployment, and fostering entrepreneurship through practical skills development programmes.



# EPWP Participants Trained in General Residential Repair

Article by: Oageng Mathenje  
Photography by: Oageng Mathenje



Participants are currently attending training on general residential repair through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Non-State Sector, in collaboration with the Independent Development Trust (IDT) and Kgaphamadi (NPO), in Thembisile Hani Local Municipality in Mpumalanga. The programme has recently conducted training for 15 participants in construction maintenance and general residential repair.

This initiative forms part of the EPWP mandate to reduce poverty and unemployment while providing skills development opportunities for poor and unemployed community members. The programme commenced in July 2024 and is scheduled to conclude in March 2026.

The training programme consists of both theoretical and practical components and is accredited at NQF Level 3. Participants are first enrolled in classroom-based learning to equip them with theoretical knowledge in preparation for the practical training conducted in the workshop.

The theoretical training focuses on general residential repairs, including maintaining and fixing common household issues related to carpentry, plumbing, painting, electricity, flooring, and fencing to ensure structural integrity and functionality.

The practical training covers essential repairs such as fixing leaking taps, patching drywall, and repairing loose doors to prevent further damage and maintain the structural condition of residential buildings.

In his remarks, Mr Issac Mothapo, EPWP Programme Manager in Mpumalanga, indicated that he was pleased with the progress participants have made during the course of the programme. "They will be well equipped and employable by

the time they exit the programme, which will enable them to contribute towards the economy of South Africa," Mr Mothapo concluded.



# Mpumalanga EPWP Integrated Grant Workshop

Article by: Khanyisa Moagi

Photography by: Khanyisa Moagi



On 18 February 2026, the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure – Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Branch, Mpumalanga Regional Office, conducted the EPWP Integrated Grant Workshop in Middelburg, Steve Tshwete Local Municipality in Mpumalanga.

The EPWP Integrated Grant is a government initiative aimed at incentivising public bodies to create temporary work opportunities and facilitate skills transfer to unemployed individuals.

With the finalisation of the 2026/27 financial year EPWP Grant Framework and models in compliance with the Division of Revenue Act (DoRA), the Act requires that receiving public bodies of the conditional grant must be inducted and educated on the requirements and compliance reporting processes of the grant across all four EPWP sectors.

In outlining the purpose of the workshop, Mr Isaac Mothapo, EPWP Programme Manager at the Nelspruit Regional Office, emphasised the importance of facilitating these workshops and ensuring attendance by public bodies. He highlighted that proper reporting on the EPWP system ensures that public bodies receive sufficient grant allocations to implement projects that create meaningful impact in the livelihoods of communities.

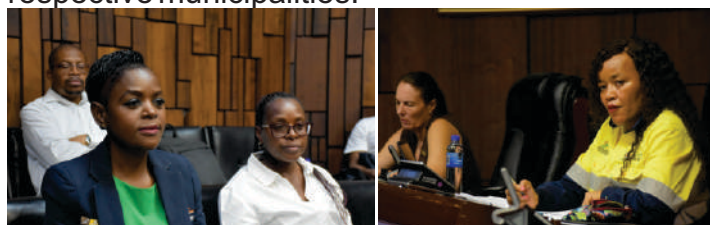
Presentations made on the day included a report on EPWP grant projects, an expenditure report, and the DoRA conditions outlining processes followed in line

with Section 12 of DoRA regarding allocation, reallocation, or stopping of funds, as well as the impact of unspent funds at the end of the financial year. These were presented by Mr Azwiitei Sihadi, Deputy Director: Financial Support in EPWP.

The workshop further included presentations on the performance of the province in the current 2025/26 financial year, covering Quarter 1 to Quarter 3. Challenges were noted regarding late or non-reporting on the system by certain municipalities despite communicated reporting system closing dates.

Public bodies were encouraged to submit reports on time to avoid losing their allocated grant funding due to non-compliance. One of the resolutions agreed upon was the standardisation of reporting templates to improve ease of correspondence and verification of submitted information.

Representing the Office of the Chief Director: EPWP (DPWRT) in absentia, Ms Shantel Bunting, Programme Manager at DPWRT Mpumalanga, thanked all public bodies for the fruitful and engaging session and expressed confidence that public bodies will implement impactful projects that impart knowledge and skills to communities in their respective municipalities.



# EPWP Continues to Make a Positive Impact Through Targeted Skills Development

Article by: Brian Dlamini

Photography by: Oageng Mathenje



The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) continues to make a positive impact through targeted skills development initiatives aligned with EPWP Phase V, with a strong focus on vocational training, entrepreneurship, and supporting participants beyond the programme.

A total of 15 participants are currently being trained in the National Certificate in Building and Civil Construction at NQF Level 3. This qualification equips learners with practical skills in areas such as bricklaying, plastering, carpentry, roofing, and related construction activities. The programme combines formal education with hands-on experience, and these participants are being trained under the Nkomazi Local Municipality in Mpumalanga.

The training is facilitated by the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) in partnership with Gert Sibande Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) College and is funded by the National Skills Fund (NSF). The training integrates EPWP's core principles of labour-intensive methods and skills enhancement.

Gert Sibande TVET College has been involved in various EPWP-related skills programmes, including construction and other vocational training initiatives that aim to equip participants with skills that improve their employability and opportunities for self-employment.

Mr Bongani Matlombe, EPWP Training Coordinator at the Mpumalanga Regional Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, noted that these opportunities are warmly received by communities, as they empower participants, develop their skills, and bring about positive change in their lives.



# Blouberg Local Municipality Participants Acquire Training in Environmental Practice

Article by: Tsakani Maringa (Polokwane Regional Office)

Pictures by: Tsakani Maringa (Polokwane Regional Office)



A total of 20 EPWP participants under the Blouberg Local Municipality in Limpopo received training in Environmental Practice at NQF Level 2.

The training programme was conducted over a period of 33 days and covered the following Unit Standards:

- Perform routine maintenance
- Take action to address impacts on the environment
- Separate, handle, store, treat, and transport waste
- Monitor water quality

The training was conducted by Masakhane Training and Consultant, a training provider contracted by the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure to offer the training in Sen'wabarwana.

Participants expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to gain knowledge related to their field of work. They appreciated the training and information shared, which helped them better understand their role in environmental management. They indicated that they now see their work in a different light — not just as picking up litter, but as contributing to environmental preservation and ensuring that waste is handled and stored correctly.

Ms Madiatla Maloba, an official at the Blouberg Local Municipality, said they are looking forward to more training opportunities for EPWP participants within their municipality in partnership with the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure.



# National Youth Service Impact Evaluation Highlights

Article by: K Zantsi and K Sivhugwana  
(EPWP Evaluation Directorate)

The National Youth Service (NYS) Programme is a Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) initiative launched in 2007, implemented as part of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). It engages the youth of South Africa in strengthening service delivery, promoting nation-building, fostering social cohesion and assisting youth to gain occupational skills necessary for accessing sustainable livelihood opportunities. It has three core components: Structured Learning and Individual Development, Service Element and Employment/Exit Opportunities.

Broadly, the objectives of the NYS programme are to:

- Develop the skills, knowledge and abilities of young people to enable them to make a meaningful transition to adulthood,
- Improve youth employability through opportunities for skills development, work experience and support to gain access to economic and further learning opportunities, promote social cohesion.
- Inculcate a culture of service to communities and inculcate in young people an understanding of their role in the promotion of civic awareness and national reconstruction.

In 2024, an impact evaluation of the NYS Programme, with a specific focus on the period 2019 – 2024, was commissioned. The evaluation, confirms the programme's relevance and highlights significant achievements while providing a clear roadmap for future improvements.

## Key Impact Highlights

The NYS Programme is delivering tangible results for young people and their communities:

### Skills for the Future

- A high percentage of youth participants gained valuable skills: teamwork (92.3%), technical/vocational skills (81.4%), and communication skills (80.9%). The most commonly developed technical skills included bricklaying (44.8%) and plumbing (43.3%).

### Improved Employability

- Nearly 40% (38.1%) of the youth surveyed were employed or self-employed after the programme. Furthermore, the programme contributed to an increase in participants' income levels, with 21.6% reporting a significant increase.
- The study reveals that while the programme successfully imparts critical skills across all participants, success in securing post-NYS employment is significantly influenced by pre-existing socio-demographic factors.
- Specifically, the analysis shows that employed and self-employed participants are disproportionately older, male, and possess a higher incidence of Technical/Vocational Certificates than their unemployed counterparts, who are mostly younger and female.

Crucially, the data indicates that self-reported acquisition of core skills (such as technical, communication, and teamwork skills) is equally high among all groups, meaning the presence of a certificate or skill acquisition is not enough to guarantee a job.

- This highlights the urgent need to shift focus from solely providing skills training to implementing formalised, targeted placement strategies that specifically address the systemic challenges faced by high-risk groups (like young, previously unemployed females) to translate their newly acquired skills into sustainable economic opportunities.

### Personal and Leadership Growth

- Participants highly rated the improvement in essential life skills, including decision-making (49.0%), conflict resolution (46.4%), and financial management (43.3%).

### Community Contribution

- At the local level, the main impact cited is community asset building, which contributes to better service delivery through the improvement of public infrastructure.

### Motivations and Needs

- The top motivations for joining the programme were clear: gaining work experience (59.3%), receiving a stipend (54.1%), improving future employment chances (54.1%), and developing new skills (47.4%). Overall, the majority of youth found the training relevant to their personal development (56.2%) and community needs (58.8%).
- However, the voice of the youth also pointed to areas for growth, specifically calling for enhanced training in digital and financial literacy.

### Roadmap for the Future

To maximise the programme's long-term impact, the report recommends key actions:

#### 1. Strengthen Employment Pathways

Intensify and formalise partnerships with private and public sectors to align training with real-world job market demands in high-employment industries like construction and manufacturing. Formalise the post-NYS programme linkages and support mechanisms for participants.

#### 2. Boost Entrepreneurial Support

Enhance training in business planning, funding sourcing, and financial management to drive entrepreneurial outcomes, as currently only 6.2% of youth started businesses.

#### 3. Ensure Long-Term Tracking

DPWI should develop a formal track-and-trace mechanism to consistently monitor and document the employment and entrepreneurial success of participants after they exit the programme.



**Contact us:**



**Expanded Public Works Programme**



**@epwp.publicworks**



**expandedpublicworksprogramme**



**[www.epwp.gov.za](http://www.epwp.gov.za)**



**012 406 1000/2000**