



## 67 Minutes dedicated to making a difference

By: Dorris Maswanganye



As part of celebrating International Mandela Day on 18 July 2012, the Portfolio Committee on Public Works and officials from the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) paid a visit to Lerato Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centre, one of the EPWP Social Sector programmes in Musina, Limpopo.

Mandela Day was the perfect opportunity to improve conditions at the centre by renovating the building and creating a more conducive learning environment. The centre has 41 children enrolled for the current school year and three teachers.

Mandela Day encourages individuals to give 67 minutes of their time giving back to their communities, especially the disadvantaged and those hit hard by poverty.

In celebration of Mandela Day and the 94th birthday of former President Nelson Mandela, the EPWP, together with the Independent Development Trust and various stakeholders, engaged in the renovation of the Lerato ECD Centre. Construction companies such as Tsheza, River and Malumuchi, as well as local suppliers, sponsored materials for the centre's renovations. One of the local shops also donated mattresses and various toys for the children.

Part of the renovations that were carried out included removing and replacing the old roof, painting, providing a ceiling for one of

the buildings, palisade fencing, paving and new floor tiles.

In her speech, the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Ms Catherine Mabuza, said that poverty in communities is a challenge, and she highlighted the need for individuals to come together in fighting this challenge. "Let us fight poverty together," she pleaded. The principal of the centre, Ms Sana Tshivasa, was very happy with the good work done by the EPWP and other role players.

With assistance from Mr FM Maphopha and Ms MM Moemi, the kids demonstrated their artistic talents by using white tablecloth to draw footprints and write a message to "Tata Mandela", as he is affectionately known. The message read, Mkhulu Mandela, we will follow in your footsteps.



# Wetlands rehabilitation creates work opportunities

By Siyabonga Mhlanga



The Namaqua wetlands will create a sustainable work opportunities for the Kamiesberg communities on its existence.

EPWP Environment and culture sector, in partnership with the Department of Environmental Affairs, Working for Wetlands programme and South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) embarked on project site visits to Eselsfontein, Kleikop and Witsand wetlands at the Namaqua lands of Kamiesberg, in the Northern Cape.

Kamiesberg Working for Wetlands rehabilitation project is supported by the department of Environmental Affairs and implemented by SANBI which is the champion of wetlands rehabilitation aiming at creating work opportunities and transferring skills to the beneficiaries which is in line with the EPWP mandate of alleviating poverty and unemployment through the provision of work opportunities and training.

Despite the uncertainty of the weather conditions which cause a long dry of rain spell this season, SANBI believe that nature will take its course and it will result in growing of plants and more of the wetland species. The project was built

in two types of structures which is a gabion structure and a concrete structure in order to stabilize the erosion and channel the speeding water coming from the banks of the road.

Project manager of Kamiesberg wetlands



Mr Benjon Dreyer said communities rely on the EPWP projects to make a living as it provides income.

“We did an alien clearing, cutting down trees. As we know that ship out woods is expensive, the communities will also use woods for fire” said Mr. Dreyer.

Later that day, after the projects site visits SANBI rewarded Kamiesberg Wetland Rehabilitation Project with Best Wetland Project Award. Several projects were nominated but the winner was Kamiesberg

Wetland Rehabilitation Project as it created twelve work opportunities for the EPWP beneficiaries and transferred skills to the beneficiaries on due time of completion. The celebration thereof took place in the small town called Leliefontein in the Kamiesberg



municipality.

The Deputy Director of EPWP Environment and culture sector Mr Hlamalang Come, said the green economy concept ensured that the communities get employed in projects aimed at protecting South Africa's natural resources such as the wetlands. “South Africa as we know it today is part of the world's campaign to promote sustainable development and proponents of the global drive towards a green economy. Therefore, as we join SANBI

to celebrate Best projects Awards today, we must be fully aware that we are on course to create an environment free of destruction and affirm our commitment to environmental protection and preservation through this initiative. SANBI through Working for Wetlands Programme has not only created work opportunities but further ensured that beneficiaries benefit from skills training interventions.” said Mr. Hlamalang Come.

Social Development and Training Manager ,for SANBI Mr Conradie Mhlari said it is important to have a good relationship with the landowners in order to have more projects. “Part of the skills programme is to support young entrepreneurs on how to grow in the small enterprises development and create sustainable jobs”. He was referring to the support they have from the landowners together with the Department of Environmental Affairs and other departments.

“We need to train the beneficiaries within the programme and to look for other opportunities outside as we get funding from the Department of Environmental affairs and we get resources from DPW” he concluded.

# Expanded Public Works Programme strengthens partnerships

By Lesego Moretlwe



EPWP representatives from Mpumalanga municipalities and other role players gathered at the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality in Mpumalanga to discuss the revised EPWP incentive grant model. The workshop was aimed at bringing identified role players on board and to clarify issues around the revised EPWP incentive grant model.



The workshop was in line with the EPWP municipal policy, which seeks to ensure that the implementing bodies adhere to the labour-intensive methods in creating work opportunities. Ms Carmen Joy Abrahams, Chief Director of EPWP Partnership Support, was delighted to point out that Mpumalanga had achieved 100% in terms of the signing of protocol agreements between the Department of Public Works (DPW) and municipalities, thus adhering to the resolutions of the 2010 EPWP Summit.

The 2010 EPWP Summit resolved that, upon the signing of the protocol agreement, the mayor of a particular municipality commits to creating EPWP work opportunities according to the set targets, and adhering to the terms and conditions.

Ms Abrahams urged municipalities to develop their EPWP municipal policies, which the council had to endorse and submit to the DPW by the end of June 2012. She took the attendees through

the municipal policy development process and emphasised the importance of commitment and understanding of what they commit themselves to.

The EPWP revised incentive grant states the following:

- 40% of the allocation is paid at the beginning of the financial year, with two transactions of 30% dependent on reporting by the eligible public body.
- The incentive allocation is based on previous reporting by the public body, in addition to other factors such as the unemployment rate, backlogs and the location of the public body (rural or urban).

In his presentation on the revised incentive grant model, Mr Ignatius Ariyo, Chief Director of EPWP Infrastructure, said that the revised incentive grant model will be used for the expansion of work opportunities. Of the total allocated incentives, 5% is allowed to be used for capacity development, and the minimum allocation of these incentives is R882 000. Mr Ariyo also emphasised the importance of monthly expenditure reporting by municipalities according to National Treasury regulations.

According to the Division of Revenue Act, the money has to be disbursed to the municipalities in August (within one month of the beginning of the municipal financial year) in an effort to assist municipalities to implement the EPWP more efficiently.



# Bloemfontein regional office nurtures young minds in the safety and security sector

By Eric Mkhunjulwa



The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) recently held an induction workshop for a pilot project aimed at providing young people with skills and work opportunities. The General Security Officer's Learnership Programme, implemented in the Department of Public Works' Bloemfontein regional office, is part of the Sector Community Safety Programme that seeks to address the need for security service delivery in buildings that are managed by the Department of Public Works in Bloemfontein.

This learnership programme is a joint initiative between the EPWP Social Sector and the Safety and Security Sector Education and Training Authority (Sasseta). A total of 22 youths have been identified for the learnership programme and recruited by the Bloemfontein regional office, and are currently undergoing a 12-month training course as security officers. The beneficiaries will be placed at various sites such as nurseries, workshops and other government buildings for experiential training. Sasseta provided uniforms for the beneficiaries to enhance their visibility and the EPWP Social Sector pays the beneficiaries a monthly stipend of R2 464 for the duration of the programme.

Sasseta is responsible for the appointment and payment of SA Tiger Security, who is the lead provider. SA Tiger Security signed an agreement to work with Victory Ticket (an emerging provider) to transfer skills to the beneficiaries. Victory Ticket was recommended to participate in this programme, as they have achieved accreditation after completing a training provider capacity-building programme initiated by the EPWP Training Support Unit and Sasseta in 2010.

Sasseta's Education and Training Quality Assurance and Learnership Division will monitor this programme to ensure that quality training is maintained until the completion of the programme in April 2013, whereupon the Seta will award all successful learners with competency certificates.

