



public works

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EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME

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Youth Month Special Edition 2013

Testimonies by National Youth Chef Training Programme (NYCTP) graduates in Western Cape, where the graduations were held on 20 June 2012 at Southern Sun in Cape Town



Tladi Masakala is a diploma graduate who has a passion, love and dedication for the NYCTP and the hospitality industry. Since joining the NYCTP, he acquired rewarding work experience in the hospitality industry and a formal qualification. In 2012, Mr Masakala participated in the prestigious Nestlé Golden Chefs Hat Competition, which rewards the best cook in South Africa in which he came second. In 2013, he participated in the same competition and won. His prize was a seven-day trip to Singapore to learn from their renowned chefs about different dishes and styles of cooking. "I thank EPWP, the Department of Tourism and the South African Chefs Association for this opportunity," he said.

Another chef who received a top achiever trophy is a 21-year-old **Shay Terblanche**

who completed his diploma with distinction and was awarded the Top Achiever Trophy in the NYCTP for his hard work. He matriculated in 2007 and worked as a chef in one of the cafés in Cape Town. He joined the NYCTP and studied at the Chezgourmet Chef School in Claremont, Cape Town in 2011. He said he learned about this life-changing opportunity through a friend and applied to the NYCTP where he underwent the recruitment process and became one of the successful applicants "It was a great experience, very hard, but I feel extremely thrilled by my achievement as a professional chef," said.

Ms Haadiya Abdullatief is a 23-year-old lady who does not believe in an average performance of any assignment she is given, hence her Overall Achiever Award for the class of 2012 NYCTP did not come as a

surprise. "I never believed in limiting my potential and always work hard to achieve the best results. Average is not an option for me," she emphasised. She completed her matric in 2007 and joined the NYCTP under the International Hotel School, Cape Town in 2012 where she acquired a Programme Certificate. "My passion has always been cooking. I did Home Economics as a subject at high school. I tried other careers but it did not work out. I followed my passion. Thank you EPWP and Tourism for presenting such a wonderful opportunity." Haadiya intends to work in the hospitality industry and study further to become a lecturer in the same field.

National Youth Chefs Training Programme (NYCTP) to boost skills and create employment within the hospitality Industry

By Kgomotso Mathuloe



More than 700 learners graduated as chefs after undergoing the NYCTP. The graduations were held in all nine provinces from 12 to 20 June 2013.

Launched in 2011 as one of the EPWP initiatives, the NYCTP is a partnership between the National Department of Tourism and the South African Chefs Association (SACA). The programme was a combination of theoretical and practical training. The Food and Beverage Sector Education and Training Authority (Seta) accredited training providers were used to offer the internationally recognised diploma and certificates. Three hundred learners were enrolled to study diplomas at NQF level 5, while 500 learners did certificate course.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony held at the Game Bain Lodge in Bloemfontein, Thomas Overbeck, the NYCTP Project Manager, said the project is a life-changing opportunity to the learners. He also said that more than 92% have passed the course. This will give young people opportunities to venture into careers on cruise ships, event management, catering and other fields within the hospitality industry.

Addressing the jubilant graduates, the President of SACA, Stephen Bellingham said that the programme does not only address the need for skilled chefs but it also helps to curb unemployment and improve the lives of the individuals on the programme.

One of the top students, Ntandokazi Tindleni, indicated that before participating on this project, she was unemployed and only had a Matric Certificate. She was then selected and placed in a two-year training programme and she did her practical training at Windmill Casino in Bloemfontein. She now holds a diploma, which she passed with distinction.

Eshley Botha, one of the graduates said that he intends to start his own catering business. "The skills that I have gained from the course will be applied in my business."

A total of seven learners from the Free State who passed their exams with distinction will be enrolled in an advanced diploma. The second intake of 500 new learners from the nine provinces will be implemented during the 2013/14 financial year.

Expanded Public Works Programme, we are not only building bridges, we are bridging the poverty gap.

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The city of Ekurhuleni aims to combat youth unemployment

By Khomotso Gosebo



The City of Ekurhuleni hosted a three-day Job Summit and Career Expo from 11 to 13 June 2013. The summit took place at the Alberton Civic Centre on the East Rand, in Gauteng.

In his opening remarks, the Member of the Mayoral Committee of the City of Ekurhuleni Planning and Economic Development, Mr Bennet Nikani, highlighted the purpose of the gathering not to become one of the "talk shows" but come up with resolutions and time lines pertaining to youth unemployment. He indicated that the summit will afford people an opportunity to interact and come up with solutions. The proposals that were suggested to be addressed during the summit were to:

- establish a Human Resource Development Council
- establish a development programme
- propose the formulation of one body that will look after the businesses in the city
- formulate the Ekurhuleni Trade and Industry / Co-ops.

Speaking during the summit, the Executive Mayor of the City of Ekurhuleni, Cllr Mondli Gungubele, made a bold commitment that the City of Ekurhuleni will lead the charge to ensure that young people of the city benefit from the freedom of the country.

In his speech, the Mayor alluded that the long queues that formed each day of the summit from the early hours of winter mornings was enough to convince him that he has a lot of work to do to improve the lives of people. He further said that thousands of young adults flocked from the south-western point of Ekurhuleni, armed with only a CV in hand and hopeful hearts of doors opening to a better future.

The event attracted close to 12 000 people when the city had actually anticipated a turnout of about 5 000 people. Of these 98% were young people.

The City of Ekurhuleni is home to over three million people and of those, over a million are unemployed. Approximately 36,9% of the unemployed are young people between the ages of 15 and 34. Moreover, 42% of the population of the city does not have matric while only 3% of the population has a qualification equivalent to university degree.

The municipality had therefore invited prominent local and international businesses, government and non-governmental organisations to attend the event with the view of assisting each other to try to combat the youth unemployment rate.

On the second day of the summit the Department of Public Works, under the umbrella of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), were given a chance to present their role in job creation. Ms Beauty Kutumane, the Programme Manager of Gauteng highlighted the mandate of the EPWP, its cross-cutting sectors, the acquisition of the incentive grant to the reporting municipalities, job creation mode and the preparation of EPWP Phase 3 to be launched early next year. Ms Kutumane applauded the City of Ekurhuleni for the good job in implementing the Vuk'Uphile Learnership Programme and said that it is ahead of other metropolitan municipalities to implement the programme across the country.

The metro also implemented the second phase of the Contractor Development Programme wherein 20 learner contractors (50% men: 50% women) are implementing projects worth R47 million.

Different organisations were presenting their employment and training opportunities including bursaries, learnership and internship programmes. The event was packed-to-capacity but the crowd was controlled. The municipality arranged busses to transport people to the expo. A computer laboratory was set up with internet access to provide career advisory services and enable the youth to develop their CVs.

"We cannot create a world of job seekers but we need to create an enabled environment that will produce entrepreneurs. The truth is our economy cannot absorb all job seekers," those were the frank words of Andile Khumalo, the founder of My Start-Up and Chief Investment Officer, MSG Africa Holdings. His message to the youth was that entrepreneurship is the solution to the scourge of joblessness.

The Ekurhuleni Metro Municipality's Head of Economic Development Caiphus Chauke described the Job Summit and Career Exhibition as an eye-opener that brought the harsh realities of unemployment to the foreground and said that they always worked with the statistics quantitatively but within three days, they have come to see the reality of unemployment in the region.

In his closing remarks Mayor Mondli Gungubele said that this time next year he will be reporting back to the community the progress that they have made following resolutions and commitments made at this years' summit. He said that the city planned to host the Job Summit every year. This summit was the first of its kind.

Job-preparedness Workshop and Youth Day Celebrations, Ga-Mathabatha Village, Lepelle Nkumpi

By: Khanyisa Mashele



The young people of Ga-Mathabatha Village in the Lepelle Nkumpi Local Municipality, Limpopo were awarded an opportunity to learn and prepare for the work environment during a job-preparedness workshop, which was held on 12 June 2013 at the Ga-Mathabatha Fanang Dlatla Community Hall in Limpopo.

As part of celebrating Youth Month, the Expanded Public Works (EPWP) National Youth Service (NYS) and Enterprise Development Directorate together with National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) organised the Job-preparedness Workshop and Youth Day celebration to highlight the importance of skills development and readiness to enter the work environment for the EPWP beneficiaries. The day was packed with many activities, which included: compiling curricula vitae (CVs); preparing for job interviews; the importance of the commemoration of 16 June; and other group activities.

A total of 30 NYS learners were enrolled on a skills-development programme, which enabled them to gain experience from theoretical classroom learning to practical training in Building and Civil Construction NQF Level 3, and Plumbing NQF Level 4. The 12-month training started with theoretical training in April 2012 and was placed on site for experiential training from July 2012 to March 2013. The Experiential Learning Project entailed construction and renovation of the Malispdrift Police Station in the Lepelle Nkumpi local municipality. At the end of the training, Segabokeng Building Construction which was responsible for providing experiential learning employed seven of the 30 learners.

With the completion of their training the beneficiaries were given guidelines on how to prepare their CVs, prepare themselves for the work environment they will be entering, and many other opportunities that are available in the construction industry. They were invited to ask questions and present solutions to the questions they had asked. Many indicated that they could not further their studies due to lack of funds and information. The NYDA representative, Micardo Cupido, who facilitated the workshop, told them that study loans and bursaries are available from various institutions to assist in such instances.

The Deputy Director: NYS, Ms Mpumi Ndlangisa, encouraged the youth to stand up and grasp all the opportunities that are around them as a way to commemorate the youth of 16 June 1976 who fought for the rights of the youth of South Africa.

Ms Kgaphola of Thusa Sechaba Construction Services gave a motivational speech to the youth about the construction industry. In her speech, she indicated the importance of being patient, dedicated and hard working if the youth wanted to be successful, and that each one has got their own path to success. "It is all about how you put your skills and mind to good use," she said.

Beneficiaries were tasked to form groups to showcase their skills in decision-making. They presented their final ideas to the other participants and guests. The top performing individuals from each group discussions were selected to present their business ideas. Two of the contestants won the final prize, which was start-up capital for their own business. The winners were:

- Lucky Makgoka presented his business idea for a civil engineering and construction company. He is already skilled in the area of plumbing and tiling. He said there is lack of such services in their village. He saw the opportunity to start his own company to meet the demand. He said he would also make use of the opportunity to train his fellow villagers, which would help them to acquire useful skills in plumbing and tiling.
- Peggy Lekgothoane presented the business idea of owning a container world. She would purchase the containers and rent them to schools and crèches. She got this idea when she saw that schools and crèches had a shortage of classroom space to accommodate all the children.

The start-up capital was sponsored by Thusa Sechaba Construction Services to motivate the youth to stand up and do it for themselves.

National Youth Service (NYS) hosts a learners' graduation workshop in the Eastern Cape

By Tshuluzi Nkoana



Just over 50 young people from several areas in the Eastern Cape have graduated after completing their training under the Public Works Department's NYS Programme which is one of the Government's initiatives aimed at addressing the skills shortage among the unemployed youth between the ages of 18 and 35.

These graduates from Bhisho and Humansdorp acquired skills such as tiling, painting, plumbing and brick laying – trades needed by candidates aspiring to work in the construction environment.

The graduates were awarded certificates that confirm their acquired skills. They also received toolboxes. Upon the awarding of the certificates and toolboxes the EPWP Programme Manager in the Eastern Cape, Mr Mziwabantu Ntese congratulated learners and advised them to use their certificates as stepping stones towards building their careers. He cautioned them against selling their toolboxes, saying they must use them to their advantage. "These tools are still the assets of the State," cautioned Ntese.

The EPWP Deputy Director: Enterprise Development, Mr Sebata Montjane said profiles of the graduates remain important as they assist in the placement of learners in possible projects. Mr Montjane outlined the importance of small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) in the learner's life. "Do not let the programme collapse; because it is mainly designed for you. It is here to uplift your lives, to develop your skills and to expose you to many other opportunities that lie ahead," explained Montjane.

Below is the table outlining the breakdown of the skills acquired per area:

Area	Type of skill transfer	No of NYS Learners
Middelburg KwaNomzamo (EC)	Tilling and painting	18
Bisho (Balasi Village)	Plumbing and painting	13
East London	Brick laying, plumbing	11
Humansdorp	Plumbing, painting and bricklaying	10

Testimonials

Ms Nomakholwa Mona (beneficiary from East London) said, "We came here with no skills whatsoever but we came out with a bit of glitter on our hands. This was the first exposure for us to the workplace. We have acquired a lot – from technical skills to life skills. We would like to thank the EPWP for the opportunity given to us."

Mr Sandile Nolo (beneficiary from Middleburg) said, "We appreciate the opportunity given to us, it could have been anyone in the country. We are really thankful for the opportunity that the Department of Public Works has given us through EPWP NYS. I want to believe that we all see the light and the direction to take."

Mr Luvuyo Kukayi (beneficiary from Balasi) said, "We appreciate the opportunity given to the youth in this community of Balasi. It has been challenging as it was our first encounter in the field, but we understand the journey ahead of us now."

National Youth Service (NYS) learners celebrate Youth Month

By: Khomotso Gosebo



The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) National Youth Service (NYS) in the Johannesburg Regional Office hosted the NYS graduation ceremony at Thaba Ya Batswana Resort in the northern suburbs of Johannesburg.

The ceremony was held on 14 June 2013 prior to the 37th commemoration of 16 June 1976. National Youth Day honours all the young people who lost their lives in the struggle against apartheid and Bantu education.

“These graduates are privileged to be graduating during Youth Month and some of them are able to sustain themselves from this programme while the others are qualified to be the future artisans through the training that they acquired.” These were the words from Mr William Moeketsi the Deputy Director of EPWP NYS in the Johannesburg Regional Office. He further said that success does not come easy, but through hard work and dedication.

To those who dropped out of the programme Moeketsi said, “They have wasted the State’s funds because the training is funded using government money. I hope that they have realised that they lost a great chance to become what they wanted to be in life.”

The attendees were overwhelmed by the NYS pledge that was presented by one of the graduates on behalf of the beneficiaries; then followed by a poem of perseverance by the beneficiary.

Volsoorus Police Station

A total of 21 students were recruited. From them, eight students dropped out due to different reasons such as going back to school or finding employment elsewhere and so 15 students continued with the training.

The beneficiaries received different training such as: orientation; the Occupational Health And Safety Act and first aid; technical training that was done at the Mthimkhulu Primary School; life-skills training; and an on-site training programme that entailed:

- housekeeping
- electrical assistance
- carpentry
- bricklaying / topping

This was done under the mentorship of Prince Nkosi, the mentor appointed by the Department of Public Works.

Training opportunities at Norwood, Gauteng married quarters of the South African Police Service

At least 40 beneficiaries benefited from this project, with the recruitment done by the Department of Public Works.

Technical training

The technical training started on 14 August 2012 at the recreational centre next to Norwood.

During the technical training students were exposed to the following trades:

Plumbing: Students were taught to install pipes for drinking water; piping for geysers; how to fix blocked drains; and to install a bath, toilet and shower.

Painting: They were taught to fix the walls before painting them and also how to mix colours.

Electrical assistance: Students were taught how to remove existing wires, install wires and how to connect circuit boards. The students were taught how to read the electrical drawings and some were taught how to bend the galvanized conduits pipe according to the drawing.

Roof carpentry: Students were taught how to erect a pitched roof.

Bricklaying: Students were building brick walls and taught how to mix mortar.

The programme formed part of the Skills Development, Poverty and Unemployment Alleviation Initiative. The young people were very happy to be part of the programme and highlighted their appreciation for the positive impact of the EPWP in their lives. “Our lives have changed for the better,” said one of the beneficiaries while posing for the photo shoot at the EPWP photo booth.

Youth month gallery

