



05 December 2019

issue: 33

EPWP Bi-Weekly Bulletin

EPWP COOPERATIVES DRIVE THE CREATION OF WORK OPPORTUNITIES

Article and pictures by Emmanuel Jiyane

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure has partnered with Gert Sibande District Municipality to create sustainable work opportunities utilising various cooperatives in the district.

This initiative known as Siyathuthuka is implemented through Environment and Culture sector and is geared to reduce unemployment and contribute towards skills development.

The project is in line with the municipality mandate of capacitating Small, Medium and Micro-Enterprises (SMME's) within local communities by equipping them with technical, managerial and financial skills through Learnership Programmes and other SMME Development initiatives.

Currently, five cooperatives have been contracted for a period of 24 months, from July 2019 until July 2021.

These cooperatives operate in phases and benefit as follows:

- Phase1: Receive a stipend from EPWP incentive grant and they are encouraged to save the money that they generate from the project.
- Phase2: The profit they generate from the project is then injected into the business for buying of machinery to enable daily operations and ensure that the cooperative is sustainable.

Through the implementation of Siyathuthuka, a youth focussed

cooperative called Young Nature Minders was established to work on waste collection. The daily duties of this cooperative include waste collection, sorting, categorisation, and preparation of waste to be bailed in the machine, compressing into smaller bundles which will be ready to be taken into the market.

Testimony

A 33 year old Ms Jacky Jackson who resides in Standerton, in Mpumalanga under Gert Sibande District Municipality thanked the government for supporting them to start their own cooperative which contributes to the development of their community. "I am currently holding a Diploma in Financial Management from Intec College and I could not secure a permanent job. Since I have started to participate in EPWP my life has changed for the better because now, I am able to provide for my family and I have developed an interest and passion for the work that I do.

I understand that "waste" is money and I would like to encourage the unemployed youth to start their own cooperatives and not just wait for government to create work opportunities but should assist government to reduce unemployment."

In conclusion Ms Jacksons said their future plan is to open different branches around Gert Sibande District and create more work opportunities for the unemployed youth.



Upcoming events

EPWP Enterprises Development directorate will host the SIYB Training workshop in Queenstown, Eastern Cape from 2-5 December 2019

EPWP will participate at the Environmental Affairs seminar and exhibition of the South African Antarctica season at the International Convention Centre in Cape Town, Western Cape from 2-5 December 2019

Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Ms Patricia de Lille will launch the Gender Based Violence Initiative in Salvokop, Gauteng, 5 December 2019



NYS PARTICIPANTS EMBARK ON WATER TREATMENT PROJECT

Article and pictures by: Emmanuel Jiyane



The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure in Bloemfontein has recently recruited twenty two (22) Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP)-National Youth Services (NYS) participants from the areas of Metsimaholo Local Municipality such as Groenpunt and Denesville. These participants are working on the Waste Sewage Treatment plant and renovating Groenpunt Prison.

This project will be implemented for 2 years . The Participants duties include treating the waste sewage of the prison in an effort to save water which is then circulated back to the dam for re-usage.

Currently the participants have received an accredited training on Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) and First Aid. Other skills that they have acquired include treatment operation and plumbing.

Testimony

One of the project Participants, Mr Thembelani Hlatswayo from Denesville in Free State extended his gratitude for an opportunity of being one of the EPWP participants implementing this NYS Programme.

Hlatswayo said he intends to spend some of the monthly wage to further his studies as a mechanical fitter or water purifier after graduating from the programme. "Sewage water arrive on the plant as waste, we treat it by separating the scam from water and circulate them back to the dam. I am happy that today I understand the process of purifying water, this is a great opportunity", Mr Hlatswayo concluded.

Bulletin issued by
Communications & Marketing