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## EPWP Bi-Weekly Bulletin

# GOVERNMENT AIMS TO CREATE MORE EPWP WORK OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE YOUTH IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR (2021/22)

Article by Michael Mokoena, picture by Brian Dlamini



As Youth month commemorations came to an end in June 2021, Government remains committed towards implementing programmes such as the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) to develop young people and provide the necessary skills to ensure that they become employable.

In the current financial year, the Government has committed R 1, 18 billion to the Infrastructure, Environment and Culture, and the Social sector through the integrated incentive grant for Provinces and Municipalities, with an estimated total number of 81 850 work opportunities.

Furthermore, R1 billion has been allocated to the Non-State sector Programme with the estimated total of 52 189 work opportunities to be created. The work opportunities will be created through thousands of EPWP projects that will be implemented throughout the country. Majority of these work opportunities will target young people.

The EPWP has a variety of youth focused programmes such as the

- National Youth Service (NYS) Programme that focuses on the training of youth between the ages of 18 to 35 in artisan trades in the built environment across the various spheres of Government.
- Youth Environmental Services Programme aimed at ensuring the participation of youth in natural resource and biodiversity management.
- Youth Mobilisation Programme aimed at supporting youth that have started community development initiatives that are socio-economic in nature to enhance the project outcomes.
- Artisan Development Programme which is implemented in partnership with various Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs) in effort to address the issue of scarce

skills and provide trades such as Fitter and Turner, Motor mechanic, Air-conditioning etc.

### Message from young EPWP participants

Rialivhuwa Nekhofhe (32), a learner contractor under the EPWP's Vuk'uphile Learnership Programme in Limpopo, urged the country's unemployed youth to continue to find ways to lift themselves out of poverty and unemployment.

"It is hard being an unemployed young person in the country. However, I wish to challenge the youth to just do something to get themselves out of poverty. While pushing those job applications, you should also look at opportunities offered through the EPWP. Those who get an opportunity to participate in the Programme, they must use the EPWP to gain skills so that they can stand a better chance of getting permanent employment or become entrepreneurs once they exit the Programme," Nekhofhe said.

For 32-year-old Renthea Koopman, participating in the EPWP provided her and her colleagues with skills to set up their own bakery in Vorskburg in the Northern Cape. The mother of two urged young people to not lose hope in the face of rising unemployment rate.

"Before participating in the EPWP, I too had been unemployed for a long time. When I got an opportunity to participate in the EPWP, I grabbed it with both hands. The Programme gave me hope as I managed to provide for my children and also learned skills that led me and some of my colleagues to set up the only bakery in Vorskburg. I urge young people to also look at opportunities that may be available for them in the EPWP," Koopman added.

## Vaccine Rollout

During Phase 2, all people above the age of 60 are eligible to be vaccinated.

### You can register by:

- Using the online registration platform available on the SA Coronavirus website
- Dialling \*134\*832# and registering via USSD
- Sending the word "register" via WhatsApp to 0600 123 456
- Calling the National Toll-Free Call Centre on 0800 029 999, where somebody will help you to register and answer any questions about the vaccination rollout

WHATAPP SUPPORT: 0600 123 456 EMERGENCY NUMBER: 0800 029 999 @PresidencyZA | www.stateofthation.gov.za

## Registering to get vaccinated is easy!

Citizens aged 60 years and above need to register for their COVID-19 vaccination

<b>www.</b> Any device with Internet Access	<b>USSD</b> FREE on all South African Mobile Networks	<b>WhatsApp</b> Internet access or data required
Connect device to the Internet and go to: <a href="https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za">https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za</a>	Dial <b>*134*832#IDNumber#</b> No ID Number? Just dial <b>*134*832#</b>	Send the word <b>REGISTER</b> to <b>060 012 3456</b> on Whatsapp

- Follow the instructions and enter all the information that is requested.
- You will need your identification number (Passport, Asylum seeker number, RSA ID or refugee number)
- Enter the location where you want to be vaccinated (home or work)
- If you are a member of a medical aid you will need your medical aid provider name and your medical aid number

#IChooseVacciNation

Should you encounter problems during the registration process contact the COVID-19 helpline 0800 029 999

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**EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME**

## DPWI TRAINS EPWP PARTICIPANTS FROM LIMPOPO IN LANDSCAPING

Article by Michael Mokoena

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) recently trained 20 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants from Limpopo in landscaping. The participants are part of an EPWP project that provides cleaning, gardening and ground maintenance work at cost centres that are owned by the Limpopo Department of Public Works and Infrastructure in the province's Capricorn District.

According to Ms Phuti Ngoasheng – Assistant Director for EPWP Training in Limpopo - the training was aimed at equipping the participants with relevant skills and knowledge so that they can be more employable by the time they exit the project.

The training qualification is accredited by Agriculture, Sector Education and Training Authority (AgriSETA) as a National Certificate: Landscaping NQF Level 3.

Ngoasheng said a service provider by the name of JNV Landscaping and Training was appointed to provide the 33-day training. At the end of the training the participants were knowledgeable on the following modules or unit standards:

- Identification of different plants in the landscaping industry
- Mow and de-thatch grassed areas
- Pruning of shrubs and other ornamental plants
- Be able to monitor and maintain the health and safety

standards within the horticultural industry

Ngoasheng pointed out that since the training was implemented amid Covid 19 challenges, all Covid-19 safety protocols were adhered to including wearing of face masks by participants, regular sanitization and ensuring that participants took breaks in between the training.

### Participants' testimonials

Pinkie Kekana from Seshego, a participant at this project expressed excitement about being part of the EPWP. "I am also thrilled to have participated in the training as I have acquired skills that I will use to provide for myself after exiting the Programme."

She added that the certificate that she received will also help her to find work for her small landscaping business.

For Samuel Legoete participating in the EPWP provided him with an opportunity to earn an income and provide for his family. "With this training I have acquired necessary skills that will assist me in future. I intend using part of my stipend to buy a lawnmower and few tools and open my own landscaping business so that I can continue to earn an income." Legoete concluded.