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# EPWP KAMOSO AWARDS – HONOURING EXCELLENCE IN THE CREATION OF WORK OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOUTH AFRICANS

By Michael Mokoena



Ms Mayathula-Khoza said that “as we strive for excellence – as individuals and organisations – we contribute to the broader socio-economic development of society and we improve the conditions of the people as a whole.”

She said that the 2015 Awards had been refined and adjusted to reflect the principles which underpin Phase 3 of the EPWP, including creation of community assets, creation of sustainable livelihoods, transparency in recruitment and selection, and promoting training alongside income support.

“For the first time we have introduced a category for the Best Innovative Project across all four EPWP sectors. This category was evaluated using the following criteria and guidelines - the degree of convergence between sectors, partnerships established - partnerships between departments, NGOs and the private sector; the impact of the project in the community, compliance with Ministerial determination in relation to the minimum wage, UIF and Coida, transparent recruitment and selection procedures of EPWP participants, contribution of the project to sustainable livelihoods as well as the duration of work opportunities, and accredited training provided and number of training days.”

Ms Mayathula-Khoza highlighted some of the key EPWP programmes and projects that were improving the lives of South Africans daily, including a range of EPWP training programmes such as the EPWP Artisan Development Programme, the Social Sector programmes that were alleviating poverty and hunger in communities across South Africa such as the North West Food and Empowerment Project as well as community centres across the country that were at the heart of the government’s work to move South Africans out of poverty, inequality and joblessness.

“In order to better coordinate public employment programmes across all departments and levels of government, the Public Employment Programme-Inter Ministerial Committee (PEP-IMC) was established, with Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa as the chairperson, and including the ten Ministers who are responsible for Public Employment Programmes and their Directors- General”

Public bodies across South Africa are the centrepiece in the government’s initiative to move South Africa out of poverty through the creation of more than 6 million work opportunities by 2019. This message reverberated loudly at the prestigious 2015 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Kamoso Awards as public bodies – including government and state owned entities – were honoured for their excellence in the creation of EPWP work and training opportunities during the 2014/15 financial year. The event was held on 26 November 2015 at the Voortrekker Monument in Pretoria. Between April 2014 and March 2015 the government reached and surpassed the EPWP targets for the first year of Phase 3 by creating a total of 1,24 million work opportunities against the target of 1,04 million work opportunities. The government’s good performance in the creation of these opportunities was mostly driven by public bodies.

The MEC for Infrastructure Development in Gauteng Ms Nandi Mayathula-Khoza in her keynote address congratulated all the award winners and encouraged other EPWP implementers to emulate these winners in the work to create over 6 million work opportunities by 2019.

“By recognising excellence in the work of individuals, organisations and implementing bodies, we also raise the bar and inspired others to emulate their example;” she stated.



“The PEP-IMC is a high-level government structure aimed at achieving better coordination and synergy between the EPWP and the other poverty alleviation, employment, enterprise development and skills development initiatives. The Committee also ensures that the government scales up its public employment programmes to achieve the 6 million work opportunity target by 2019,” the MEC added.

The 2015 EPWP Kamoso Awards consisted of 21 categories/awards in the four Sectors of EPWP, namely Infrastructure, Social, Environment and Culture as well as Non-State. The Gauteng Province walked away with six of the 21 awards including the Best Maintenance Programme in the Infrastructure Sector, the Best Province in the Social Sector, Best Province in the Environment and Culture Sector as well as the Best Innovation Project in all sectors.

Both the KwaZulu Natal and the Mpumalanga provinces received three awards each. KwaZulu Natal won the Best Province under the EPWP Infrastructure Sector, while the Ethekewini Metropolitan Municipality won the Best Municipality in Infrastructure Sector. The Mpumalanga Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport bagged the award for Best Public Body Implementing the National Youth Service Programme while the Sakh’abakhi Contractor Development Programme in Mpumalanga Province was awarded the Best Public Body Supporting Contractor Development award.

Award Category	Winner
Best Construction Project in the EPWP Infrastructure Sector	Thaba Nchu Route Project in the Free State Province
Best Maintenance Programme in the EPWP Infrastructure Sector	Soweto Infrastructure Upgrade Project in Gauteng Province
Best Province under the EPWP Infrastructure Sector	KwaZulu Natal Province
Best Municipality in the EPWP Infrastructure Sector	Ethekewini Metropolitan Municipality in KwaZulu Natal Province
Best Public Body Supporting Contractor Development in the EPWP Infrastructure Sector	Sakh’abakhi Contractor Development Programme in Mpumalanga Province
Best Public Body Implementing the National Youth Service Programme in the EPWP Infrastructure Sector	Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport in Mpumalanga Province
Contribution of the State Owned Enterprises in the creation of work opportunities	ESKOM
Best Province in the EPWP Social Sector	Gauteng Province
Best EPWP Social Sector Programme	Home Based Care Programme
Best EPWP Social Sector Project	North West Food Security and Empowerment Project in the North West Province
Best EPWP Social Sector Municipality	City of Cape Town in the Western Cape Province
Best Sector Implementing Department in the EPWP Social Sector	Department of Education in Gauteng Province
Best Province in the EPWP Environment and Culture Sector	Gauteng Province
Best Local Municipal Project within the EPWP Environment and Culture Sector	Msunduzi Ward Based Integrated Maintenance Programme in KwaZulu Natal Province
Best District/Metropolitan Municipal Project in the EPWP Environment and Culture Sector	City of Tshwane Youth and Greening Project
Best National Sub-Programme in the EPWP Environment and Culture Sector	Working for Water
Best EPWP Environment and Culture Project	Creative Industries, My Village – My art in Mpumalanga
Best Province: Non-Profit Organization Programme in the EPWP Non-State Sector	North West Province
Best Non-Profit Organization Programme in the EPWP Non-State Sector	Iteking Clean and Green Centre in the Free State
Best Community Work Programme in the EPWP Non-State Sector	Siyakholwa Development Foundation in the Eastern Cape
Best Innovative Project in all EPWP Sectors	Zivuseni Reloaded Poverty Alleviation Programme in Gauteng Province



# EPWP CONTRIBUTING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF MTHATHA

By Michael Mokoena



The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants who were part of the restoration of the Mthatha Airport have contributed to the Province's strategy to grow the local economy and attract tourists to areas in and around Mthatha.

According to Senior Manager: Aviation Infrastructure Operations in the Eastern Cape Department of Transport, Mr. Noel Godwin, the 220 EPWP participants "provided general labour during the construction of the new terminal building, the new car hire facility, the construction of the new security fence as well as the paving of the parking area at the airport".

"The new face of the airport will certainly attract more tourists to the area which in turn will boost local economy and create the much needed jobs for our people. The participants must be proud of their contribution to this project- their work has left a lasting legacy for our local economy and tourism. EPWP is indeed contributing to the economic development of Mthatha," Godwin stated.

Mthatha is located not far from the sandy beaches of Port St Johns and Coffee Bay.

Godwin stated that although the refurbishment projects has been completed and most participants have exited the project, "there are about 40 participants that are still on site doing daily cleaning and maintenance of drains at the airport".

"The participants that are currently on site are also responsible for the cutting of grass in and ensuring that the airport stays clean. The airport is a gateway into Mthatha for most business people and investors - it is important for it to be clean at all times," Godwin said.

The airport restoration project commenced in January 2014 and it has been completed. Although the contracts of participants in the project were supposed to run for 12 months, they were extended to 19 months as there was still work to be done.

## Training

The participants received accredited training in small business development. During training, they were taught how to start small businesses as well as drafting business plans.

"The skills development programmes that participants were exposed to during this project was tailor made to give them skills that they can use to make a sustainable living post the end of the projects," Godwin said.

The safety manager at the airport, Mr Malombo Somtsewu said that the participants were appointed through the local community structures such as Ward Councillors and local Chiefs.

"Local community structures were used to ensure that the project draws the poorest of the poor. Women representation in the project was also considered as well as people with disabilities," he said.

He said that most of the participants worked on the land side (away from the landing strip) of the airport. "However when the participants must clean the airside (around the landing strip), we ensure that they have all the documentation and the safety required for them to be on that side of the airport," he added.

## Participants

Although most of the participants have exited from the projects since the airport refurbishment has been completed, the 40 participants who are cleaning the facility are still working. The participants that are currently on site are grouped into two with one group working on Mondays and Wednesdays and the other on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Mfuneko Makhwelo, 40, is one of people with disabilities in the Programme. He is the team leader of one of the cleaning groups.

"I feel empowered by EPWP. In fact because of this programme I do not feel like a disabled person at all. EPWP has not only financially benefited me and my loved ones through the monthly stipend I'm receiving, but it has also given me dignity and hope," he said.

Olwethu Mgule, 34, who comes from the community of Ncise (a community not far from the airport) said that he loved working in the project. "We start our day with cleaning the dustbins at the airport. Then we proceed to pick-up papers around the airport. Although we have been tasked with cleaning the airport's drains, we still have not started with that," he said.

For the 37-year-old Mpho Ndandani, the work of cleaning of the airport is contributing to the good image of Mthatha.

"The cleanliness of the airport is a reflection of the beauty of Mthatha. When the airport is clean, visitors (tourists) come back again. The cleanliness of the airport also shows the world what kind of people live in Mthatha. That to me is important," she said.

All participants spoke of how the stipend has helped in reducing hunger and poverty at their homes.

# EPWP INCREASING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN SPORT

By Michael Mokoena



Government Programmes such as the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) are contributing to the increase in a number of community members who are participating in the community mass sport participation in Heilbron, in the Free State Province.

“We are seeing children, young people and the elders increasing in the field of play as a direct result of programmes such as the EPWP Sport Assistant Programme. In fact this particular programme is a good story to tell because not only is it keeping our people, especially the youth, away from bad influence such as crime and alcohol abuse, but it is also contributing positively to their health,” the Heilbron Sports Council Chairperson Elias Mofokeng stated. The EPWP appointment a 24-year-old Victor Serobe on a twelve month contract as an EPWP Sport Assistant in the town.

His work is to encourage members of the public to participate actively in sports with the objectives of promoting good health, self-realisation, community development and social cohesion.

The Community Mass Participation Programme is implemented and administered by the Ngwathe Local Municipality in Heilbron, Provincial Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation in partnership with the town’s community structures such as the Heilbron Sports Council.

Members of the public are utilizing the Muman Court sportsground that are located at the community’s Thusong service Centre in the town to participate in various sporting activities.

“The sporting codes the community can participate in include basketball, soccer, netball, volleyball, and mini-cricket. The centre is also being used to administer a sport participation programme for the community’s elders,” Mofokeng said.

He indicated that programmes such as the EPWP Sport Assist were very important in the development of the community of Heilbron. “We currently have one EPWP Sport Assistant responsible for the entire Heilbron. Such programmes are also good in the alleviation of poverty through the creation of work opportunities for our youth. We need the Government to provide more participants for the purpose of using sports to move our community forward,” Mofokeng added.

## Participant

Serobe said he was pleased about being part of the EPWP Sport Assistant Programme.

“The programme inspires the community of Heilbron, especially the youth. Since the implementation of this programme, members of the public are coming in large numbers to participate in sports,” he stated.

Serobe pointed out that his daily work included drafting and overseeing a weekly programme for members of the public who are participating in sports.

“We focus on different sporting codes each day. We have five sporting codes daily. We start at 12pm with soccer practice, at 3pm its netball until 4pm, and 4pm we start with basketball and boot camp programme,” he stated.

Serobe, who has been active in sport from grade 1 until he finished high school in 2011, has always been passionate about sports and its role in improving the lives of the people.

“Personally I am humbled to have been given this opportunity by the Government, the local sports council and the community of Heilbron. The monthly stipend I receive has assisted me a lot at home as well,” he added.

## Municipality

The Ngwathe Local Municipality official responsible for sport Motsumi Molapisi said that the municipality had two EPWP Sport Assistants and that the municipality started implementing the programme in 2014. The other Sport Assistant in the municipality is in Vredefort.

“All community members are benefiting from this programme. The programme has been successful in addressing various social challenges facing our youth. Members of the public start flocking to our sporting facility as early as 9am long before the programme officially starts,” he said.

Molapisi hailed Serobe for his energy and enthusiasm for sport and the development of the people of Heilbron.

“Recently Serobe and all EPWP Sport Assistants in the Province received a two day leadership training where they were taken through all that was expected of them. It is also important to note that the selection and appointment of EPWP Sport Assistant in our municipality was led by the community through the town’s sport council,” he added.



# EPWP PLAYS A ROLE IN THE EMPOWERMENT OF THE YOUTH OF WESTERN CAPE

By Michael Mokoena



The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) is playing a vital role in the assistance and empowerment of vulnerable youth in the Western Cape. By partnering with institutions such as Chrysalis Academy in Tokai, the EPWP participants placed at the Academy are contributing to the betterment of the lives of vulnerable youth in the Province.

Chrysalis Academy is a social crime prevention and youth development organization that provides holistic development, support and empowerment of vulnerable youths in the Western Cape. Its mission is “To unleash the potential of youth through mental, physical, emotional and spiritual empowerment, enabling them to become positive role models and productive citizens of South Africa” The academy uses a regimented and structured approach based on discipline, order and predictability to achieve its objectives The Academy’s services are targeted at youths in the age group 18 to 25.

Chrysalis Academy is currently home to 180 students who are receiving life coaching and skills training (such as Fire Fighting; Public Safety; Basic Cookery; Child & Youth Care; Office Administration and Sports Coaching) from the Academy. These youth come from various parts of Western Cape including Winelands, Overberg, West Coast, Central Karoo and Eden districts.

The Academy has been a consistent EPWP placement institution since 2013 and currently hosts 9 of its own graduates, who are now EPWP interns placed within various components. These EPWP interns are being exposed to various aspects of the work environment at Chrysalis Academy, whilst gaining substantial experience in Office Administration, Asset Management, Procurement, Logistics, Facilities Maintenance, and Psychosocial Development & Mentoring.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Chrysalis Academy, Ms. Lucille Meyer, explained that the Academy has three cohorts per year-two

male and 1 female. Since the Academy offers a regimented style programmes, the three cohorts are named ALPHA, BRAVO, and – CHARLIE. Each cohort is also assigned a number indicating the year they are formed, i.e. in 2014 the academy trained 14 ALPHA, 14 BRAVO and 14 CHARLIE

“Our work is to ensure that we provide hope and empower these youths so that they can build a better life for themselves and their families. Our approach to human development is a holistic one whereby we believe that people are more than their physical bodies. We must therefore work at the spiritual, emotional, mental, physical and energetic levels in order to access the power within and release that deep-seated inner potential,” Meyer said.

Meyer hailed the work done by the National Department of Public Works through EPWP, the Western Cape Provincial Government as well as all institutions and community members who contribute to the success of the academy.

“By working with all stakeholders, we are not only tackling poverty in the province by providing work and training opportunities for our youth, but we contribute in the development of all the Province’s vulnerable youths,” Meyer added.

## EPWP Participants

Ms Nonkosinathi Novukela and Ms Siphosethu Ndude are currently placed in the Academy’s Community Liaison Component where they assist with data capturing, filing and archiving of student

documents as well as telephonic queries pertaining to recruitment and placement of students and graduates. The two participants were placed at the Academy in 2014.

“We are happy with the work that we are doing at the Academy. We are also learning a lot in terms of office administration work. We thank the Academy and the Government for this opportunity and we believe that once the programme has come to an end we will be able employable because of the training we are receiving at here,” Novukela and Ndude said.

These two participants also assist with telephonic monitoring and tracking of graduates as well as coordinating visitations to specific placement institutions.

Mr. Vuyiwe Mgijima and Mr. Ridaa Davids are placed in the Academy's Training department where they assist with issuing of toiletries to students, setting up of venues, asset management, capturing of curriculum and provide general support to the Training staff.

“The monthly stipend we are receiving from EPWP has assisted us a lot as individuals. Since we are currently not employed, we are using the stipend to look for permanent employment and to care for our loved ones. We also thank the Academy and the Government for this life changing programme,” Davids said.

Another EPWP participant Mr. Imran Mohedeen, is placed as an assistant to the Life Coach at the Academy and he is responsible for assisting with the logistical arrangements for student's family workshops, all therapeutic care sessions and testing events.

“Along with his passion to pursue a career in Social Work, Mohedeen actively conducts counselling interventions for students and parents and co-facilitates classes pertaining to Interpersonal relationships, communication and silence,” the Academy's Community Liaison Manager Liane Langeveld explained.

Mr. Damian Van der Merwe, is placed in the Academy's laundry where he assists with the sorting and washing of students' clothes.

## GOVERNMENT TO EXPLORE WAYS TO MOVE EPWP ICT GRADUATES TO THE NEXT LEVEL

By Michael Mokoena and Lerato Moeng



Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Information and Communications Technology (ICT) graduates must play a role in the government's commitment to rollout ICT and information technology to schools across South Africa, the Deputy Minister of Public Works Mr Jeremy Cronin said.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony of EPWP participants who have received ICT and entrepreneurship training through the Independent Development Trust and Vodacom ICT Youth Programme in Durban on 09 November 2015, Deputy Minister Cronin said that “we need to put pressure on ourselves (as government) to ensure that you play a role in the government's massive programme to rollout ICT and IT to schools. We need to engage with various government institutions such as the

Department of Basic Education to understand the critical role you can play in the ICT and IT programme at our schools.”

Deputy Minister said that in the event where participants can't all be channelled into the ICT and IT programme at schools, government would have to look at other avenues such as assisting participants with the setting up of their own cooperatives or small businesses.

“You have worked hard to achieve the academic certificates that you have in your possession, we can't raise your expectations and leave you here. Without making any promises at this point but we must take you to the next level in terms of those of you who still have the appetite to continue with your studies in the ICT sector. We must ensure that we provide you with opportunities that will enable you to be employable,” Deputy Minister Cronin added.





The participants Deputy Minister of Public Works was speaking to are part of the 190 that graduated across South Africa. The participants received Further Education and Training Certificate in Information Technology: Technical Support. The national certificate is accredited by the Media, Information and Communication Technologies Sector Education and Training Authority (MICT SETA) at level 4. The EPWP ICT graduates were placed at an ICT Centre in Durban city centre.

The centre manager Mrs Lindiwe Dlamini congratulated the graduates.

In his address, Deputy Minister Cronin also informed the young graduates about the EPWP, its history and its vision for the future. The graduation was also attended by the parents of the participants.



### The Participants

The participants explained that the training has allowed them to not only learn about ICT and how to set up small businesses “but the course also allowed us to volunteer our skills to the upliftment of our communities around Durban.”

“This programme provided us with training in Information Technology, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and entrepreneurship. After completing the course we were assisting and teaching community members on what we have learned,” Lungelo Dlamini one of the participants said.

He stated that they a lot about computers including the software that they use.

“Working on computers has taught us a lot about life. It has taught us to use what we have to advance ourselves. Through this partnership we have critical skills, it is up to use to use these skills to move ourselves and our communities forward,” Dlamini said.

Buhle Shabangu another participant who after exiting the programme found work at a local school as an administrator assistant stated that the programme has been empowering.

“Today I can dismantle and assemble computers. I have knowledge of computer software and hardware. There is so much I learned about IT and ICT which I’m applying in my current work at the school. Although I’m currently working on a contract basis at the school, being part of the EPWP, IDC and Vodacom programme elevated me to the current work that I’m doing,” Shabangu said.

Meanwhile there were other participants that graduated from the programmer across South Africa, including in the North West Province, Northern Cape and the Free State. In the North West, three participants were given awards for their excellent performance in the programme, they include Tsholofelo Dipuo, Gloria Boitumelo and Petrus Koketso.



# EPWP METRO-WIDE SCHOOLS AMBASSADORS PROGRAMME TO BRING STABILITY TO SCHOOLS IN THE NELSON MANDELA BAY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY, DEPUTY MINISTER JEREMY CRONIN

by Michael Mokoena



The appointment 330 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) non-teaching staff at 209 schools across the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality will not only alleviate poverty and unemployment in the area, but will also contribute to the stability of schools in the municipality, the Deputy Minister of Public Works Mr Jeremy Cronin said.

He was speaking at the launch of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Metro-wide Schools Ambassadors Programme on 11 December 2015 at the Helevale Recreational Centre in Port Elizabeth.

The Deputy Minister Cronin said the programme would enable teachers to focus on delivering quality education to learners in a safer environment. The programme will provide work opportunities to 330 community members in the area.

“The participants will be responsible for a range of duties at schools including providing general maintenance work, cleaning, providing security and general administration work. The programme is critical as it will ensure that teachers no longer have to perform administrative work that takes them away from their core teaching duties. It will also ensure that the process of learning and teaching occurs in a safer environment,” Deputy Minister Cronin said.

Mr Cronin said “we must all work together to ensure that this programme becomes sustainable”.

“This is not a programme to last until the local government elections next year – it is not a short-term programme for some narrow short-term political process. We want to run this programme in an efficient and sustainable manner. We are not making any promises but we must all work together to make this programme sustainable,” Deputy Minister Cronin added.

The work opportunities created through these programmes contribute to the overall target of creating over 6 million work opportunities by 2019. In the recent years, poor schools in the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality have been plagued by problems of gang violence, drugs, vandalism of infrastructure and shortage of staff, more in particular of non-teaching staff.

The EPWP Metro-wide Schools Support Programme is an initiative of the National Department of Public Works through EPWP, the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality, the Eastern Cape Department of Education as well as the Independent Development Trust (IDT).

At the launch ceremony, Deputy Minister Cronin was joined by the Executive Mayor of the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality Councillor (CLLR) Danny Jordaan, the MEC for Roads and Public Works in the Eastern Cape Ms Thandiswa Marawu, MEC for Education in the Eastern Cape Mr Mandla Makupula and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Independent Development Trust (IDT) Mr Johan Pakade.

All the political heads emphasised that the programme was the outcome of cooperation of all three spheres of government.

Cllr Jordaan said the Programme would address two critical issues in the municipality – jobs and quality education at schools in the area.

“There are two things that people want – a job for himself or herself and education for his or her children. These are the two fundamental things that all of us want. The EPWP Metrowide Schools Ambassadors will contribute a lot in the provision of these two important needs. We are truly happy about the launch of this programme and I congratulate all the participants who have been appointed to this programme,” Mr Jordaan said.

The participants would receive theory, practical and experiential learning while serving in the programme. It is envisaged that some of the participants will be empowered with skills to pursue employment in open job market or pursue self-employment enterprise development field.

Mr Pakade said the launch of the Programme was “a historical moment for the people of Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality”.

“Today we are witnessing what government has always spoken about - partnerships among our people,” he added.

Both MEC Marawu and MEC Makupula hailed the launch of the programme. “This programme will contribute in our wider strategies to tackle challenges facing our schools in the area,” Mr Makupula added. The programme was one of several EPWP initiatives to alleviate poverty and unemployment in the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality.

A week before the launch Cllr Jordaan launched 20 new trucks linked to the Water Ambassador Programme to fight against water leaks in the area.

Another initiative was Sophakama in KwaZakhele, a non-profit organisation that employed five volunteer caregivers who work with the local clinics to care for patients in the area. Through the EPWP intervention, the NPO has employed over 273 caregivers, mainly women.

## Participants

Speaking on behalf of the participants Mr Kenneth Mlungiseleli thanked the government for the opportunity.

“The wages we are receiving through this programme helps us to look after our loved ones. EPWP has removed us from the streets and gave us opportunities to work. Today our families no longer go to bed hungry. Others may see our wages being little, but to us, the wages gives us life. We truly thank the government for EPWP,” he said



# MPUMALANGA PROVINCE HOSTS 5TH ANNUAL EPWP KAMOSO Awards

By Lerato Moeng

On Thursday the 29th of October 2015, the 5th Annual Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Kamoso Awards 2015 were held at Middleburg, Banquet Hall in the Steve Tshwete Municipality. The event was presided over by the Mpumalanga MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport Ms D.G. Nhlengethwa. In her keynote address, MEC Nhlengethwa congratulated the people of Mpumalanga for working hard to ensure that the Province reached its EPWP targets for the 2014/15 financial year.

“The people receiving the awards tonight (29 October 2015), showed hard work and determination. As the government, we will always prioritise the interests of our people through the EPWP work and training opportunities that we create,” she said. The Kamoso Awards winners received certificates and trophies. Below is the list of the 2015 Mpumalanga EPWP Kamoso Winners

Below is the list of the 2015 Mpumalanga EPWP Kamoso Winners

NUMBER	SECTOR	CATEGORY	WINNER
1	NON-STATE SECTOR	BEST PROJECT: NON PROFIT ORGANISATION	EPILEPSY SOUTH AFRICA
2	NON-STATE SECTOR	BEST PROJECT: NON PROFIT ORGANISATION	MASAKHANE ECD
3	INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR	BEST CONSTRUCTION PROJECT	UPGRADING OF PINE RIDGE STADIUM: EMALAHLENI LM
4	INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR	BEST MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME	WATER AND SANITATION UMJINDI LM
5	INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR	BEST PROJECT: LOCAL MUNICIPALITY	WATER AND SANITATION UMJINDI LM
6	INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR	BEST PROJECT SAKH'ABAKHI PROJECT	DOE: MKHUTSHWA SECONDARY SCHOOL
7	INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR	BEST PROJECT SAKH'ABAKHI PROJECT	DOE: KUFAKWEZWE SECONDARY SCHOOL
8	ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE SECTOR	BEST PROVINCIAL PROJECT	DCSR: CREATIVE INDUSTRIES MY VILLAGE MY ART
9	ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE SECTOR	BEST PROJECT: LOCAL MUNICIPALITY	IG/CLEANING OF ILLEGAL DUMPING SITE: EMALAHLENI LM
10	ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE SECTOR	BEST PROGRAMME	IG/ WASTE MANAGEMENT: NKOMAZI LM
11	ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE SECTOR	BEST INNOVATIVE PROJECT	CREATIVE INDUSTRIES MY VILLAGE MY ART: DCSR
12	SOCIAL SECTOR	BEST PROJECT: ECD	TENTELE PRE-SCHOOL
13	SOCIAL SECTOR	BEST PROJECT: HCBC	NEW LOVE LIFE TRUST
14	SOCIAL SECTOR	BEST PROJECT: TOURISM SAFETY MONITORS	UMJINDI TOURISM SAFETY MONITORS

## NYS GRADUATES HAVE HOPE FOR A BETTER FUTURE

By Michael Mokoena

Over 200 young people from Johannesburg and Cape Town are hopeful to join the world of work after completing a 12 month training offered by the Expanded Public Works Programme through the National Youth Service (NYS). The NYS forms part of the government's EPWP – which is a bold initiative to create over 6 million work and training opportunities by 2019. The NYS graduations took place in August and September 2015 in Johannesburg and Cape Town respectively. The graduates received training in various artisan trades such as electrical and mechanical engineering and welding, painting, and bricklaying. The exiting participants expressed hope for a better future.

### Johannesburg

The participants from Johannesburg were placed with various contractors that were responsible for building and refurbishing government building across the city.

Mandisa Faye joined NYS in 2011 and upon graduation in 2012, was appointed as a learner contractor working at the Randfontein SAPS. “Part of the work that I did as a learner contractor on site was to order building material and check if the refurbishment of the offices

was being undertaken. The work of learner contractor assisted me a lot to understand the construction sector. The training we received afforded us an opportunity to open our small company and we were given subcontract work of face brick washing on the site,” she said.

She explained that in 2013, their company was given work to paint the SAPS offices in Kempton Park. “As a result of having been part of NYS programme, I can also do ceiling and tilling work. Personally the training I received through NYS has given me opportunities I never thought I’d have,” she added.

Another participant stated that as a result of the NYS training “I can do everything electrical”.

“I can do domestic installation, motor testing, motor connection and even working on trucks. I’m in a process of registering my company after which I’m intending to apply for subcontract work in the electrical field. Currently I’m working in a private project in Marikana,” she said.

The Deputy Director of NYS in EPWP Ms Lungile Zulu gave the graduates a message of encouragement.

“You are very important to us as the NYS graduates. We know that some of you may want to go to Further Education and Training (FET) colleges to further your studies while some of you may be wanting to into the world of work. We would love to continue to keep in touch with you so we can see how we can further assist you going forward,” she added.

## Cape Town

The NYS graduation in Cape Town was attended by the Director of NYS in EPWP Ms Tebogani Phiri. In her address, Ms Phiri wished the exiting participants well for the future. The Cape Town graduation was also significant as it was graced by the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) as well as a handful of further education and training institutions that were already looking to attract some of the exiting graduates into the academic programmes they are offering.



# KWAZULU NATAL COMMITTED TO MOVING THE EPWP FORWARD

By Lesego Moretlwe



The Department of Human Settlements and Public Works in Kwa Zulu Natal as the coordinator of the Programme in the province spearheaded the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Indaba which brought together representatives from institutions such as municipalities, State Owned Entities (SOEs) government departments Non Profit Organisations (NPOs). The two-day Indaba took place from 02-03 October 2015 in Mayville-Durban.

The objective of the Indaba was to promote working together with all the implementers of the EPWP for the better and effective implementation of the EPWP, which is aimed to alleviate poverty and unemployment through the provision of work opportunities to the poor and the unemployed South Africans.

The key platform during the discussion was about working towards the objective of the EPWP Phase 3 which is to “to provide work opportunities and income support to poor and unemployed people through the labour-intensive delivery of public and community assets and services, thereby contributing to development.”



This was an interactive session where the delegates formed the commissions to discuss and share ideas on best practices and brainstorm on how to best address the compliance issues in an effort to meet the objective of the EPWP Phase 3 implementation. Some of the topics of engagement during the commissions were as follows:

- Institutional Arrangements
- Overall KZN Progress on Performance 15/16 & EPWP reporting system
- Auditor General's Compliance Requirements
- KZN EPWP Conditional grants performance
- EPWP Technical Guidelines (LIC)
- Job creation strategy
- EPWP Conditional Grant
- EPWP Performance challenges and remedial steps

The EPWP has been hailed as one of the world's best models in addressing the issues of poverty, unemployment, inequality.

Among the political principals and senior government officials who attended the event, were KwaZulu-Natal Human Settlements and Public Works MEC Ravigasen Pillay who delivered the keynote address on the first day of the INDABA, the MEC emphasised job creation as

a priority, quality of work opportunities created and social cohesion and indicated the Programme as a social beneficial initiative which should provide productive work. Public Works Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Mr Cox Mokgoro and Public Works Director General (DG), Mr Mziwonke Dlabantu graced the occasion on the second and last day of the Indaba. DG Dlabantu had an opportunity to engage on the feedback from different commissions and shared a strategic objective of the Programme, "EPWP is beyond the numbers, we need to know what assets have been created within our communities through the EPWP and what legacy do we leave behind" he concluded.

KZN is thus far the main contributor of EPWP work opportunities towards the 6 million work opportunities anticipated to be created by 2019.

The Programme is holistically aimed to:

- Create EPWP participants socio-economic impact
- Create community assets
- Contribute to economic development
- Provide training which serve as an exit strategy to all the EPWP learners who have been placed in different training opportunities and acquired theoretical training and or practical training.



**The following were some of the KZN EPWP Indaba 2015 Resolutions during the two day session.**

Item	Resolution	Responsibility	Time Frame
Policies and Strategies	Develop EPWP Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Policies.	All Public bodies	January 2015
	Develop EPWP Business Plans to ensure full reporting of all projects creating work opportunities.	All Public Bodies	January 2015
	Ensure EPWP is represented in the Design Review Committees (DRC) and Bid Specification Committees (BSC) in ensuring that projects are designed correctly to create employment opportunities.	All Public Bodies	January 2015
	Finalise the Provincial Generic Recruitment and Selection Strategy - OSS already covered in the draft strategy	NDPW and KZN DPW	November 2015
	SCM to ensure that EPWP requirements are included in the tender documents and Functionality Criteria: - LIC qualification - EPWP Reporting	All Public Bodies	April 2016

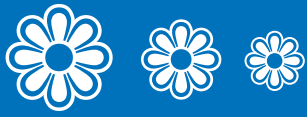
Job creation	Engage with Associations and Organisations for people with disabilities and present employment opportunities and form partnerships around the province	All Public Bodies	October 2015 and on-going
	Provincial Treasury to introduce IDMS as a strategy in the Province and encapsulate EPWP in it.	KZN Treasury	February 2015
	Public Bodies to collect all supporting documentation of all reported work opportunities and be systems ready and fully compliant for the Audit.	All Public Bodies	5 October 2015
EPWP Reporting System	KZN Province to engage NDPW on the EPWP Corporate Identity with a view of sponsoring a review in it.	KZN DPW and NDPW	January 2015
Training	NDPW to commit to a 24 hour validation period of participants and data captured on the system	NDPW	5 October 2015
	Data rejections on the system to be communicated to Public Bodies not later than 3 days after data is on the system	NDPW	
	Public Body Authorisers to verify data before authorising	All Public Bodies	5 October 2015
	Public Bodies to ensure compliance with the new reporting requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- District Forums and PSC to continue sharing reporting best practices.</li> <li>- Reporting requirements are in the Indaba pack.</li> </ul>	All Public Bodies, PSC and District forums	On-going
	EPWP Reporting System training and work session to be conducted on 16, 17 and 18 November 2015.	NDPW	16, 17 and 18 November 2015
Institutional arrangements	Develop an EPWP generic organogram for Municipalities and Provincial Departments. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To be guided by the Municipal Coordinating Structure encapsulated in the Guide for Municipal EPWP Policies.</li> <li>- The Institutional arrangements are clear at all levels.</li> </ul>	NDPW, KZN DPW and DPSA	March 2016
	NDPW to convene the National Coordinating Committee (NCC) immediately to discuss strategic and policy matters	NDPW	November 2015
	All Public Bodies to ensure that only people with valid SA Identities Documents (ID) are employed on projects and reported on the EPWPRS. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- KZN Provincial Generic recruitment and selection strategy already covers this.</li> </ul>	All Public Bodies	5 October 2015
	Inclusion of into the performance management plan and agreements for Accounting Officers and EPWP Champion	All Public Bodies	November 2015
	Recirculate reporting templates to all Public Bodies	KZN DPW and CoGTA	5 October 2015
	Set aside budget to train EPWP Practitioners and Official in the Infrastructure units on LIC.	All Public Bodies and NDPW	March 2016
LIC Guidelines	Identify and implement a minimum of two projects using Labour Intensive Construction methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring that EPWP Requirements are part of the standard BoQs.</li> </ul>	All Public Bodies and Technical Support	January 2016
	Identify Large Projects (From R30m and above) with the support from NDPW	All Public Bodies and NDPW	November 2015
	Full compliance with the Ministerial Determination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Wage rate</li> <li>- UIF and COIDA</li> </ul>	All Public Bodies	1 November 2015



Sustainable Livelihoods	Provincial Departments and Municipalities to promote sustainability of livelihoods through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing the employment durations.</li> <li>• Provide field specific technical skills training to beneficiaries and report on training</li> <li>• Align EPWP with LED strategies and policies for effective and sustainable enterprise development.</li> <li>• Identify and implement other programmes and projects that can produce sustainable work opportunities.</li> <li>• PPP</li> <li>• CSI</li> </ul>	All Public Bodies	October 2015
Conditional grants	Ensure 100% expenditure of the EPWP Conditional Grant by end of March and June (Provincial Departments and Municipalities) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Monitor cash flow projections</li> <li>- Implement immediate interventions where challenges are encountered.</li> </ul>	All Public Bodies	March 2019 And June 2016
	Transfer the EPWP grant from poor performing Public Bodies to performing Public Bodies during the Div. of Revenue Bill period. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A reaffirmation of the KZN Cabinet Resolution</li> </ul>	KZN DPW	January 2016
	Develop a Project Selection Strategy for an objective selection of projects both for the Conditional Grant and Job Creation in general.	NDPW and KZN DPW	March 2016
	Finalise module on the EPWPRS for reporting impact or output deliverables.	NDPW	December 2015
	Continue to workshop the DORA before the grant is transferred to the Public Bodies	NDPW and KZN DPW	February / March 2016
Other matters	Finalise appointment of Technical Support to ensure support is provided to all Municipalities and Provincial Departments	KZN DPW	December 2015
	All KZN EPWP Indaba Resolutions to be presented to the KZN Premier's Coordinating Forum (PCF), MuniMEC, technical Clusters and COHOD.	KZN DPW	November 2015
	Public Bodies that did not attend the Indaba to be contacted in writing	KZN DPW	October 2015
	KZN EPWP Indaba resolutions to be further discussed in the next NCC leading to the national Summit	KZN DPW and NDPW	November 2015







# GALLERY

