



## EPWP NEWS

September 2019 edition

# Government prioritises the safety of tourists through the EPWP

Article Michael Mokoena  
Pictures Emmanuel Jiyane



As tourism month (September) comes to an end, the South African government continues to prioritise the safety of tourists. One of the government initiative to keep tourists visiting our shores safe is the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Tourism Safety Monitors – a government programme that trains EPWP participants to work with the police to keep tourists safe.

On 04 September 2019, the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure together with the Mpumalanga Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison awarded certificates to 305 EPWP participants who have successfully completed a five-month Culture Site Guide Skills Programme – a course that provides them with skills of keeping the tourists safe.

These participants were handed their certificates at a graduation ceremony that was held at Mbombela Stadium in Nelspruit.

Delivering her keynote address at the ceremony, the Chief Director: EPWP Operations, Ms Pearl Mugerwa hailed the work done by the participants in keeping tourists who visit the province safer.

“With Mpumalanga’s economy heavily reliant on tourism, your work of keeping our tourists safe contributes to the economic growth of this province,” Ms Mugerwa said.

Ms Mugerwa urged the graduating participants to use the skills they have attained in the programme to execute their duties with high level of competence and pride.

Among the attendees was the acting Municipal Manager of Mbombela Local Municipality, Mr Sphetho Mhlongo who appealed to the participants to study further in the field of tourism safety.

The participants were sourced from 20 Tourism Safety Monitors sites under the 3 Districts (Ehlanzeni, Nkangala and Gert Sibande) in the province.



### About the training

The Culture Site Guide course is a Skills programme at NQF level 4 and it is accredited by Culture, Arts, Tourism, Hospitality and Sport Sector Education and Training Authority (CATHSSETA).

During training, learners received theoretical and practical training and were placed at different tourist attraction sites which were identified by the Mpumalanga Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison (DCSSL) for workplace training. Training was funded to the tune of R5, 5 million by the Department of Higher Education and Training-through the National Skills funds (NSF). Injongo SSS was appointed as the Training Provider.

The Skills Programme covered the following Unit Standards:

- Conduct a guided cultural experience
- Care for customers
- Conduct a tourist guiding activity
- Minimise and manage safety and emergency incident
- Research and design a guided experience at a prominent tourist site

### Participants' testimonials

Ms Priscilla Thwala said her work as a tourism safety monitor include providing safety tips to tourists and reporting any suspicious activities and people committing crime at tourist sites to the police where she is located. One of the sites monitored by Ms Thwala is the Lebombo Boarder post in Komatipoort.



Another participant, Mr Jerry Mokoena said the training equipped him with vital skills that assisted him to find work as a tour guide at one of the local tour operator.

"I have used the EPWP to skip the unemployment queue...the knowledge I gained in the Programme helped me to get employed by one of the tour operators in the province," Mr Mokoena said.

He thanked government for an opportunity to participate in the EPWP and also appealed to young people in the province to take advantage of opportunities that are offered by the Programme.

# Skills plan- empowerment to participants and communities

Article by: Lesego Moretlwe

Pictures by: Maanea Maselesele and Thokozani Ngema



The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) hosted the graduation ceremony of ninety nine (99) EPWP participants on 15 August 2019 at Depot Hall in Taung, North-West. These participants were awarded Skills Programme certificates following their successful completion of 30% theoretical training and 70% practical training in Psychosocial support for community caregivers.

The training was implemented under the auspices of the EPWP by Kgetho Training and Consulting institution and it was accredited by Health and Welfare Sector Education Training Authority (HWSETA).

Delivering his keynote address during the ceremony, Mayor of Greater Taung Local Municipality Cllr Nyoko Charles Motlhabane expressed his gratitude about the concerted efforts of the Department of Public Works & Infrastructure and the stakeholders who made a positive contribution to the development and empowerment of the participants through the training provided and work opportunities offered through the EPWP.

He encouraged the participants to do more as the DPWI has provided the foundation for their career development. "This is the beginning, and every journey has the beginning, the future lies upon you, and I believe that you have a potential to do more and better", he concluded.

The participants were all from Venterdorp, Swartruggens and Taung areas in the North West Province and working in the following EPWP projects: Tsayaboswa Non-Profit Organisation (NPO), Lokgabeng Disability Centre, Ventersdorp Community Work Programme (CWP) and Kgetlengrivier CWP.

The following are some of the activities/ learning areas undertaken during the Skills Programme Training

- Methods of educating and transferring knowledge on Care and Support
- Conducting community education on the issues of Care and Support
- Identification of possible support base of people with chronic diseases as well as problem areas within the communities
- Identification of possible support base for Youth to unleash their potential and abilities

EPWP Senior Manager in North West, Ms Xoliswa Letsapa congratulated the participants for their hardwork and commitment displayed for the duration of the training. She further encouraged the participants to remain focused in their personal development and continue to make a difference in the lives of those in need of their social care services.

One of the participants, Ms Goitsewang Khai said the work that she is doing is very fulfilling to her, as she is providing social care services to the needy and vulnerable communities which include orphans, child headed families and also provide educational support to the learners by assisting them with the homework.

Among the guests who attended the event and gave messages of support were Ms Martha Mosiane of Kgetho Training and Consulting, Mr Koketso Tsatsi of Tlotlang Thuto Training Institute, representative from Community Work Programme, Ms Fortunate Makhubo and Mr Richard Molefe who represented HWSETA.



# Women must be at the centre of our economic agenda- State President Ramaphosa says

Article by Emmanuel Jiyane  
Pictures by Ofentse Letswalo



President Cyril Ramaphosa said that government working with business and labour will restore the economy and create opportunities especially for women and youth, he was speaking at the 2019 national women's day event held recently in Vryburg in the north west. President Ramaphosa said that government is implementing a revitalized industrial strategy in support of key growth sectors in the economy with the greatest potential to create jobs.

"as we implement the agreements of last year's jobs summit, we are working to ensure that we overcome the disadvantages that confront women in the world of work."

"the empowerment of women remains an important part of our employment equity and broad-based black economic empowerment policies." President Ramaphosa said.

The 2019 women's day commemorations formed part of the nation's celebration of 25 years of freedom and democracy. It also provided an opportunity for government to reflect on its achievements and the crucial role it plays in women empowerment.

Meanwhile the department of public works and infrastructure used the women's day event to showcase some of the work done by women who are participating in the EPWP. The department showcased the pottery artwork done by women from a cooperative supported by EPWP in the area.

The women – all of whom are people with disabilities – come from Semphethe Pottery Cooperative and they manufacture pottery tea cups and plates.

One of the women - Ms. Linda Mothibedi (48) – thanked the government for giving her an opportunity to participate in the Programme "the EPWP has given me hope, the monthly stipend that I receive assist me to look after my 6 children.



# Enterprise Development Unit to train over 500 EPWP participants on how to start and operate small businesses

Article by Michael Mokoena  
Pictures by Michael Mokoena



The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, Enterprise Development Unit is set to train over 540 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Participants on the Start and Improve your Business (SIYB) in the current financial year. The Director for EPWP Enterprise Development in the Department, Mr. Malusi Hadebe outlined that the SIYB programme is an International Labour Organization training programme that is offered for a maximum period of five days course offered to EPWP participants who have the desire to start and operate their business.

The implementation of the SIYB programme commenced in 2016 and to date, the unit has trained over 500 participants. The training has been a success in unlocking the entrepreneurial potential of some of our participants and the plan is to train at least 60 EPWP participants across provinces during this financial year, Mr Hadebe said.

## About the course

The Start and Improve Your Business programme is designed by ILO and it is aimed at the developing emerging entrepreneurs. The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure has an agreement with ILO to use this programme to inspire EPWP participants to start and operate their own small businesses, as well as expanding their existing businesses. The course has three modules, namely

- Generate Business Ideas – module assist participants who do not yet have businesses to generate ideas to start their own businesses. This module is about generating business ideas.
- Start Your Business Programme – this module assists participants to turn business idea into a basic business plan. This module is focused at the nitty-gritties of the business; what is the business about, who is the target audience, how will the product/service be packaged, how much will product/service be sold for, etc.
- Introducing Business Systems – this module is about the operational matters of the business. The module focuses on record keeping, costing and pricing, productivity in the workplace, etc.



# Minister and Deputy Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure commemorate Nelson Mandela Day in Cape Town

Article by Kgomotso Mathuloe  
Pictures by Kgomotso Mathuloe



The Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Ms Patricia de Lille spent her 67 minutes of Mandela Day making a difference in the lives of the residents of Athlone in Cape Town. Minister De Lille spent the day (18 July 2019) at the Saartjie Baartman Centre for Women and Children.

The Minister, who was accompanied by staff members in her Department, spent the day doing a range of activities with the women and the children at the Centre. Some of the activities for the day included:

- Gardening, pruning of branches, lifting of trees, (crowning), mowing of grass, weeding and filling up of open spaces in gardens with plants
- General cleaning
- Unblocking of main sewer and storm water drains
- Laying of the carpet at the day care centre

The Department has also donated 20 computers to the Centre.

Speaking during the briefing session, Minister De Lille said that the Department's assistance to the Centre will not end on (18 July 2019-Mandela Day), but will continue into the future. She said the Department will allocate 10 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants to Saartjie Baartman Centre for Women and Children Centre to provide services such as social care services, gardening and cleaning. Minister De Lille also said that Mandela Day should be celebrated every day to make a difference in the lives of various communities.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Minister Ms Noxolo Kiviet commemorated the Mandela Day at IKhaya lo Xolo Old Age Home in Gugulethu, Cape Town where she donated curtains. Deputy Minister Kiviet made a commitment that the Department will recruit 30 EPWP participants to work at the old age home and provide services such as administration, cleaning and cooking.



The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) staff who accompanied the Deputy Minister, spent the day painting, gardening and cleaning at the old age home.

In attendance of both departmental Mandela Day events was the Director- General Advocate Sam Vukela who thanked the staff for their contribution in making Mandela Day a success.

This year (2019) marks 10 years since the campaign began and this year's Mandela Day theme is "Action against poverty."



# Department of Public Works & Infrastructure tables EPWP Recruitment Guidelines to Lesedi Local Municipality in Gauteng

Article by Michael Mokoena  
Pictures by Michael Mokoena



In an effort to encourage transparency and accountability in the recruitment of community members into the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure has presented the EPWP Recruitment Guidelines to the Lesedi Local Municipality in Heidelberg in Gauteng.

The presentation was tabled to the political principals (Executive Mayor, Speaker, Councillors) and senior officials in the municipality. This initiative was led by the Department's EPWP Manager in the province Ms. Beauty Kutumane and the Acting Chief Director: EPWP Sustainable Livelihoods, Convergence and Compliance Ms. Lindiwe Nkuna.

In her presentation, Ms. Nkuna said it was vital to ensure transparency and fairness in the appointment of community members into the EPWP.

"The EPWP is aimed at alleviating poverty through the creation of short to medium term work opportunities for the poor and unemployed South Africans. Therefore deserving community members must be afforded a fair opportunity to participate in the Programme."

She added that "our recruitment process must be transparent, ethical, equitable and accountable".

Ms. Nkuna urged councillors to continue to play an oversight role in the implementation of the EPWP and to not politicize the recruitment of participants into the Programme.

The municipality, led by Executive Mayor, Speaker and the Municipal Manager, welcomed the presentation of the EPWP Recruitment Guidelines.



# The North West Department of Public Works take a step towards the reduction of youth unemployment

Article by: Emmanuel Jiyane  
Pictures: by Emmanuel Jiyane



The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure in collaboration with the North West Department of Community Safety and Transport have embarked on providing Traffic Management training to 100 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants who have been recruited from different areas in the North West Province. This is a 12 months (January- December 2019) training initiative taking place in Mpumalanga Traffic College in Mkhuhlu, Nelspruit. Upon the successful completion of this training programme, the participants will be permanently employed by the North West (NW) province as Traffic Officers.

The North West government through the Department of Community Safety and Transport Management identified the need to address the shortage of traffic officers in the province through Traffic Management training which would contribute towards reduction of unemployment among youth. The participants in this training are young people between 18 and 35 years of age with no criminal record as one of the requirements.

A 22 year old Habib Rehman is one of the participants of this training, before he joined the Programme he was a drop-out from Brooklyn City College North West because of financial constraints at home. "I saw an advert on the local newspaper and "as an unemployed youth, I never hesitated to grab an opportunity to respond to the advertisement and applied for this training".

The training of the participants covers both practical and theoretical aspects of traffic management. Upon completion of this training he wants to further his studies with the North West University so that he can be a qualified Public Service Administrator.

Ms Motlatsi Moatshe, is a 26 year old woman who also hails from North West and partake in the training.



# GALLERY

