

public works & infrastructure

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EPWP PARTICIPANTS GRADUATE AS FURNITURE MAKERS



Article By Brian Dlamini

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Public Works through the Expanded Public Works Programme has celebrated a remarkable milestone for 17 EPWP participants who have graduated as furniture makers.

The furniture manufacturing learnership was implemented as an exit strategy aimed at ensuring that the livelihoods of the EPWP participants are sustained beyond their short-term employment on EPWP Projects. The learnership programme was for a period of 12 months that included both theory and practical.

The EPWP participants were trained on specific techniques in furniture making and upholstery. Through their training, they are now able to construct and erect different types of furniture and interpret constructional drawings relative to furniture making. The participants can also apply

portable hand machine tools that can produce wood products and metals in furniture.

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Public Works mobilised the following stakeholders to be involved, in order to ensure that the participants on the programme realise a sustainable livelihood beyond their participation on this programme: The KZN Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (ETDEA), the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), the Small Enterprise Finance Agency (SEFA) and the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition.

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Public Works and Human Settlement MEC Hon. Sipho Caiphas Nkosi congratulated the graduates for being part of this programme that will help sustain their livelihoods. The MEC also mentioned that the province through the Department of Education would recycle old and broken school furniture using the EPWP participants to create work opportunities. MEC Nkosi encouraged the participants to work as a team and respect each other since they are now registered as cooperatives.







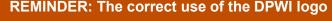
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For CI-related enquiries, email Tumisang.Nisele@dpw.gov.za / Shudufhadzo.Mudau@dpw.gov.za / Thokozani.Ngema@dpw.gov.za or call Ms Nisele on <u>012 406 1846</u> / 076 810 6775.







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