



public works & infrastructure

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DPWI PRODUCES MORE ARTISAN TINTSWALOS

Pictures By Fanisa Makhubela

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) continues to respond to the need for youth empowerment and job creation.

Deputy Minister Bernice Swarts officiated at the graduation of 49 artisans at the South West Gauteng TVET College – Molapo Campus in Soweto, Gauteng on **23 May 2024**. The graduates have been trained in various trades as plumbers, electricians, welders, builders, Motor mechanics etc.

Congratulating the graduates, Deputy Minister Swarts appealed to the built industry and government to ensure that the journey of the new cohort of artisans does not end at the graduation but at the world of work. She charged stakeholders to commence consultations with the Construction Industry Players to ensure that the graduates find internship job opportunities.

One of the beneficiaries of the programme, Lebogang Masenamela, said her vision is to have her own engineering company. The Artisan training within the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) has given her a motivation and served as a springboard to help her achieve her dream of becoming an engineer. She worked at a panel beater earning R200, she saw a poster and applied and later honed the police station renovating project in Vereeniging. She was trained and is now a qualified fitter. She has opened her company Gabi Engineering focusing on maintenance and engineering. She expressed her gratefulness for the opportunity given to her.

Deputy Minister Swarts said that TVET college education must not be looked down upon as it can accelerate the progress of young people to work opportunities. She pleaded with parents to support children to be what they are and not force them to do careers they themselves could not do but allow their children to make their choices.

Tintswalo is a Xitsonga name meaning grace or mercy. During his SoNA in February, President Cyril Ramaphosa reflected on the strides made by the governing party over the past 30 years, using a fictional story of a *Tintswalo* - dubbed **the child of democracy** born at the dawn of freedom in 1994, who grew up in a society governed by a Constitution rooted in equality, the rule of law and affirmation of the inherent dignity of every citizen.



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