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Youths' head start via EPWP

A GROUNDBREAKING undertaking with 100 young people from two rural municipalities in the far north of KwaZulu-Natal, has been given a head start in life following their completion of a rigorous six-month expanded public works programme (EPWP) training course in building and civil construction.



PICTURE: VIRTUALCONSULTING

SKILLS: One hundred young people underwent a rigorous six-month EPWP training course in building and civil construction.

The youth, who were recruited through the EPWP, were exposed to various modules of housing construction including bricklaying, plastering, roofing and carpentry.

"This exposure and the completion of the training course have put them in pole position with respect to getting work opportunities – a critical element of the government's EPWP," KZN human settlements and public works spokesperson Mbulelo Baloyi said.

The training, facilitated by the Umfolozi Trade and Vocational Education and Training College, was implemented through ensuring that theoretical, practical and workplace components of training and "undertaken concurrently within project implementation thus enabling the pupils to acquire and apply skills immediately to project activities", the department said.

The graduating youths were drawn from the municipalities of Big Five Hlabisa and Umhlabuyalingana where the department is implementing projects such as Phase 2 of Makhasa Rural Housing, the Mashabeni Rural Housing and KwaMbila Rural Housing projects.

"The department's quality assurer, the National Home Builders Registration Council, has also undertaken to provide bursaries to some of the pupils for them to continue their studies in the built environment discipline at Mtheshana Trade and Vocational Education Training College," Baloyi said.

The provincial MEC for human settlements and public works, Ravigasen Pillay, will celebrate their milestone with the graduates at a ceremony at the Mbazwana Arts Centre starting at 10am today. – 701198

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