

Expanded public works programme

TNA REPORTER

THE expanded public works programme (EPWP) women has joined in the fight against social injustice and the abuse of women and children in the province.

Some of the women work with the Nomaxabiso White Door Centre of Hope which is a non-governmental organisation (NGO).

The NGO works with local communities and the police in the fight against the abuse of women and children in the villages around Whittlesea in the province.

"We work with community structures such as community policing forum, ward committees and faith-based organisations to get members of the public to be active participants in this fight against the abuse of women and children.

"We have also established support groups for both men and women to mobilise communities around this challenge," the NGO said.

The manager of the NGO, Zamikhaya Twane, who is also an EPWP participant said the monthly wages they received from the Department of Public Works has assisted participants to provide for their families.

Minister of Public Works Nathi Nhleko said the EPWP's contribution to the betterment of societies went beyond the target of creating more than 6 million work opportunities by 2019.

Nhleko said the programme's ability to better the lives of people through the services and assets delivered was what's important.



SUPPORT GROUPS: EPWP has joined the fight against social injustice and abuse of women and children. PICTURE: VIRTUALCONSULTING

"Through partnerships with NGOs such as Nomaxabiso, the EPWP is able to afford women with opportunities to lead in the development of our communities," Nhleko said.

Part of the NGO daily activities is to provide counselling to survivors of abuse before they open police cases.

Counselling has already been given to hundreds of women and children who have been raped, physically and emotionally abused.

Delivering his 2017 Women's Day speech in Kimberley on August 9, President Jacob Zuma praised women for leading the fight for equality, justice,

freedom and democracy.

He also made it clear that those who abuse women and children must not be allowed to buy their way out of going to prison.

There are thousands of EPWP projects and programmes country-wide that contribute in the empowerment and protection of women and children.

The programmes include food gardening projects where rural women assist in the nutritional support of poor households in their communities, school support projects where women are assisting school children with homework and also cook for them. - 701831