

# Young people trained for roles in construction industry

**BABALWA NDLANYA**

THE Department of Public Works has changed the lives of young people from Mthatha and the surrounding areas by offering a programme that would help them to start their own business or get jobs from construction companies.

This department handed over certificates and tool boxes to 112 beneficiaries after finishing their training programme, which took a year. They were trained in areas such as plumbing and pipe fitting.

During training they were divided into groups and were sent to different government institutions like the Mthatha High

Court, Mthatha Correctional Services, Mthatha Airport and Police College.

According to the chief director for infrastructure at the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), Ignatius Ariyo, this training would open doors for these young people to be able to put food on the table.

“Since you have finished up your training now it would be easy for you to start your own companies or be employed by construction companies.

“When you are given an opportunity, please try by all means to show them that you were trained enough so you know what you are doing,” said Ariyo.

He said they would keep their names on the database so that they interact with

them if any job opportunities arose.

Ariyo added that they wanted artisans and people who would open co-operatives.

According to the head of the Technical Skills Development Centre at the Coega Development Corporation, Mzoxolo Dube, these beneficiaries would achieve a lot because they were properly trained, even if they want to be entrepreneurs, because all lies in the training they received.

“The other opportunity you have is to supply the material to other construction companies. There are lots of opportunities that you could follow and pave your way after this training.

“You have learnt some new skills so you have to use them in the companies that would employ you to prove yourself,” said Dube.

One of the beneficiaries, Mandisa Sicwebu, said the training was not easy at all.

She said she even lost weight, but she did not quit because she knew that there was a light at the end of the tunnel.

“As a result I can now do a lot of things by myself. Sometimes I even teach men on how to do some of the things that we were trained to do.

“Also I get lot of piece jobs from my community because of this training,” said Sicwebu.

She said the youth must grab all the opportunities that are offered by government.



← Chief director for the national Department of Public Works Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) for infrastructure, Ignatius Ariyo and King Sabatha Dalindyebo Local Municipality Mayor, Councillor Dumani Zozo, hand over certificates to Aphiwe Dwenga.

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