

EPWP workers top of their class

The City of Cape Town's Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), through the Public Employment and Skills Development Framework, has given 34 temporary workers a step up through access to opportunities to learn.

The group of participants completed not only a computer training course, but also various levels of the adult education and training course to prepare them for matric if they so choose.

The group received certificates at a graduation ceremony last week after completing an introductory computer course as well as various communication and numeracy modules contained in the adult education and training curriculum.

The latter puts them in a position to pursue their matric qualification in their individual capacity, if they wish.

"EPWP jobs provide an opportunity to be economically active and to obtain crucial work experience. The City wanted to increase the value that individuals extract from the programme, so we added another layer of opportunity to further increase their skills sets and qualifications, which in turn makes them more competitive in the job market.

"The latest group of graduates is proof of what can be achieved through hard work, determination and a willingness to exploit opportunities that come along.

"They represent just a fraction of the many people who are being upskilled through a myriad of programmes being run either directly by the City or in conjunction with external partners.

"It speaks to our commitment to help create jobs and ensure that people are equipped for those jobs," says Mayco member for safety, security and social services, JP Smith.

The 34 graduates range in age from 19 to 48 and come from all over the metropole, in-



Some of the participants who graduated.

cluding the Strand, Khayelitsha, Valhalla Park, Eerste River, Elsies River, Mitchell's Plain, Hanover Park, Muizenberg and Langa.

Most of the learners completed a five-day computer training course that included keyboard skills, introduction to computers, MS Word level 1-3, MS Outlook level 1-3 and Win-

dows 7/8 level 1-2.

The entire group was also assessed and placed in the equivalent level for communication and numeracy in the adult education and training curriculum to complete their basic education.

The education and training opportunities that are being facilitated through the Ex-

panded Public Works Programme are meant to promote the baseline skills development of EPWP workers, thereby making them workplace ready and allowing them to uplift their communities through opportunity and the achievement of economic inclusion, as envisioned in the Public Employment and Skills Development Framework.