

Firefighters' anniversary



Londiwe Pearl Xulu

WORKING on Fire (WoF) celebrated 15 years of working for the community on 7 November at Howick West Community Hall.

The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) funded by the Department of Environmental Affairs provides work opportunities to young people. This government programme was launched in 2014 to tackle poverty among South Africans. More than 30% of WoF employees in KwaZulu-Natal are women, and this province's contingent is the largest in the programme.

Councillor Sthembiso Nkuna praised the firefighters for the service they provide. He added

that not only do they fight fires but they educate people about the dangers of fire and how to avoid accidents.

WoF has various educational programmes. Nkuna said in ward four, there had been far fewer fire accidents since WoF had taught people about potential fire hazards. The programme also takes care of firefighters' children, educating them and doing an annual Christmas celebration for them.

Working on Fire Director Trevor Abrahams said the 15 year celebration saluted the accompanying poverty relief, job creation and skills development. "This programme is a start-up into getting a job and it's up to you to go further," he advised the firefighters. Abrahams has been in the programme for 11 years.