

Graduates ready for jobs

Twenty-two participants who underwent skills development training for the past three years through the Kader Asmal Skills Development Programme were honoured at their graduation ceremony held at the Alphen Centre in Constantia on Friday 11 June.

The programme was initiated in September 2019 and forms part of the City of Cape Town's Skills Development Programme. It is funded through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) office.

The objective of the programme is to equip participants with the skills and experience necessary for the job market, or for starting their own small businesses.

The participants were selected from the Kader Asmal Integrated Inter-Departmental Catchment Management Programme's database, the City of Cape Town job seeker database and also from the partner organisations.

Grant Twigg, Mayco member for urban management, attended the graduation. He said with the skills and experience gained in this programme, the graduates would be able to apply for permanent or long-term contract positions. He encouraged all EPWP participants to make the most of the opportunity given to them.

"Young people, visit your local sub-council with your ID and proof of address to register with the EPWP Jobseekers Database for upcoming temporary work opportunities within the geographical boundaries of your local subcouncil," said Twigg.

During the three years of the programme, the

participants were empowered with a variety of skills, including soft skills such as emotional intelligence, self-motivation, self-management, and training related to different areas within the environmental administration fields. The programme is complemented with on-the-job training within the City's invasive species unit and internal and external stakeholders.

The 22 students were the first to graduate from the programme and are part of 53 participants who have successfully completed it since it was initiated. Ten of the graduates are now permanent City employees, while six participants are employed by other stakeholders.

Mayco member for spatial planning and environment Marian Nieuwoudt said the programme spoke to the City's commitment to invest in expanded public and community programmes to provide long-term employment.

"I am so proud of these participants who took the opportunity presented to them and now stand to enjoy economic inclusion. What is also commendable is that the participants are all young, and South Africa is currently celebrating Youth Month – what better way to celebrate them?"

The next intake for the Kader Asmal Skills Development Programme will be implemented across the additional units within the biodiversity management branch in due course.

Grant Twigg, Mayco member for urban management, with Banothile Khubani, a graduate, and Julia Wood, City of Cape Town's biodiversity manager.

