

**Speaking Notes for Honourable Deputy Minister Noxolo Kiviet on
EPWP Artisan Development Programme Graduation Ceremony**

Date: 24 June 2022

Venue: Pretoria Hotel, Pretoria

Salutation

The Deputy Director General of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Branch in DPWI, Ms. Carmen-Joy Abrahams

Other DDG's

The EPWP NYS graduates – who are the guests of honour for this important occasion

Service providers, a partnership between RGO WATER WORKS AND F & O TRAINING TECHNICAL.

Parents of the graduates

Senior government officials

The media fraternity present here today

I greet you.

**David Molapo in his book *Choose to change* wrote, and I quote-
“When we are born, we all have one thing in common and it is the potential to succeed. Potential is only activated when released; when**

you get going and take action. I read somewhere that you do not have to get it right, you just have to get it going”.

Ladies and Gentlemen, It is my pleasure to welcome graduating artisan and families to graduation day for EPWP. Thank you for joining us on this important occasion of the graduation of young people who have successfully completed the three year Artisan Development Programme. The 37 young graduates who are among us today have passed the trade test and are awarded the Red Seal certificate issued by the Qualification Council for Trade and Occupation (QCTO) under Section 26(D) (4) of the Skills Development Act, 1998 (Act No 97 of 1998). The training focused in the following artisan trades - plumbing, electrical, and bricklaying. A recent survey conducted by CIDB found that 11% of the sector professionals were women. I am proud to announce that among the 37 graduates today 28 of them are young female graduates. About the quarter of the biggest construction firms are 51% or more female owned. We see today that these graduates have activated and released their potential and we are seeing results of the action they have taken displayed.

Ladies and gentlemen, it gives me even greater pleasure that this graduation ceremony happens as we celebrate the youth month. This year's Youth month is celebrated under the theme: *“Promoting sustainable livelihood and resilience of young people for a better tomorrow”*. This year marks 46 years since 1976 students uprising. As articulated by our president Cyril Ramaphosa in his address in Mthatha during the Youth Day celebration where he emphasized that youth should rally together to confront and overcome challenges facing our country including unemployment. He further announced the Presidential youth

Employment Intervention which is a comprehensive response to youth unemployment challenge. The President was emphasising growth that we should strive for. Here is what Dr Tibane said about growth in his book ***Master your thoughts... Transform your life***

Growth is the call we must answer

Growth is a challenge we must face

Growth is a change we must embrace

Growth is a character we must develop

Growth is a commitment we must make

Growth is a price we must pay.

I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate all of you on completing your artisan qualification. I am certain that each and every one of you will be proud of the certificate you are about to receive: a reward for your effort that you will surely cherish and treasure for the rest of your lives. I am strongly convinced that you will live up to your calling as artisan in various fields of the built environment to the very best of your abilities. Once again congratulations. Today you are qualified artisans! You are graduates!

Thank you for your hard work and dedication to the Programme. As the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) family, we are proud of your success!!!

As you exit the programme today, I wish to encourage you to use the skills you have acquired from the training to look for employment in the formal sector. Most importantly, I wish for you to work together and establish

cooperatives so that you can assist the country in the important task of creating work opportunities for other young people in your communities.

Ladies and gentlemen it is important to note that EPWP program is one of the apprenticeship programs that plays a critical role in the workforce and in the provision of scarce and critical skills in South Africa.

The Artisan Development Programme is one of the key government initiatives aimed at providing scarce and critical skills to youth, thereby affording the trainees better employment prospects. This is in line with the National Development Plan (NDP) whose target is to train 30 000 Artisans by 2030.

In a commitment to develop scarce skills in the country, EPWP is currently training a total of a further 367 young people across South Africa in various artisan trades such as plumbing, painting, paving, welding, and general civil work.

This project is funded by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) through its National Skills Fund (NSF). The DPWI contracted the Agriculture Sector Training Authority (AgriSETA) to implement the training.

Artisan Development programme graduation

It is interesting to note that in countries like Germany and Switzerland seven out of ten young people enter economy via apprenticeship programs, where they spend 60% of their study time on the on-job-training in the workplace. In these countries the term is applied to all jobs and fields of study. In our country our understanding is limited to trades such as electricians, fitters and turners, brick-makers and boilermakers etc.

The graduating young people today are part of the 40 young people who were recruited through the National Youth Service Programme by the Pretoria Regional office. The selected participants demonstrated an interest for further learning and they met the minimum requirement for artisan training which is N2 or Grade 12 with Mathematics and Science. The programme was fully funded through the 5% NYS budget allocation from the DPWI Justice College project WCS 047104.

The programme consist of the following trades: 22 electrical, 12 bricklaying and 3 plumbing. The training provider appointed was RGO Water Works in partnership with F&O to carry out the technical works for the success of the programme. The project consisted of three phases namely: Phase 1, was the theoretical phase, while during the second phase, the participants were placed at various companies to gain work experience. The final phase was the completion of trade testing. The test is one of the most important measures to determine the preparedness to be fully qualified artisans.

Ladies and gentlemen and our proud graduates, it is through programmes such as the EPWP-NYS that government is driving the sustainable livelihoods of our youth. The State President, Honourable Cyril Ramaphosa recently opined that public employment programmes – which NYS is part of – *“offer young people hope and opportunities”*.

“Not only does social employment provide an income for participants by supporting locally-driven initiatives to fulfil local needs; social employment can also unlock creativity and agency, build local participation and strengthen mutual support systems in communities,” President Ramaphosa said.

I wish to congratulate all role players such as:

RGO WATER WORKS;

F & O TECHNICAL TRAINING;

Department of Higher Education;

Department of Public Works and Infrastructure

who were instrumental in this initiative and have given meaning to the notion of building a developmental state, and unlocked the potential in our youth. This is a constitutional imperative as espoused in the preamble of the South African constitution about that **“everyone has a right to basic education, including adult basic education; and to further education, which the state, through reasonable measures, must make progressively available and accessible”**

I wish to also commend the parents of the learners, on behalf of the government I thank you for raising young people who are willing to work hard to achieve their dreams. Judging by their conduct whilst in the Programme, I am hopeful that these young graduates will go on to achieve a lot in life.

To the graduates, Please remember what Dr Tibane said in his book *Master your thoughts transform your life*, and I quote “some things will never move in your favour until you make a move”

Five things (C's) to do with success:

Conceive it in your heart

Comprehend it in your head

Commit it in your hands

Consider it in your habit

Cherish it like a harvest

I thank you.