



Deputy Minister of Public Works Mr Jeremy Cronin congratulates EPWP participants who have successfully completed a course in Environmental Practice

Article by Michael Mokoena

Pictures by Faith Nonyana and Emmanuel Jiyane

The Deputy Minister of Public Works, Mr Jeremy Cronin has congratulated the 146 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants who have successfully completed a course in Environmental Practice. Speaking at the participants' graduation ceremony in Mahikeng in the North West on 08 June 2018, Deputy Minister Cronin called on the graduates to use the knowledge they had acquired through the training to improve the socio-economic conditions of their communities. "Today we are celebrating with you on your successful completion of this training. We are proud of your achievement and we urge you to use the knowledge that you have acquired to contribute towards the improvement of the people in your communities," Deputy

Minister Cronin said.

Quoting a recent report by the Statistics South Africa (StatsSA), Deputy Minister Cronin pointed out that having participated in the EPWP, participants stood a better chance of finding employment after exiting the Programme (EPWP). "Although it is not a guarantee that one will get a job in the formal sector after having participated in the EPWP, StatsSA reports show us that in fact one stands a better chance of getting a job after having participated in the Programme. Receiving some kind of training while participating in the EPWP also improves one's chances of getting a job, or even starting one's own small business," the Deputy Minister said.



The graduation event was part of the 2018 Youth Month celebrations and it was held under the theme: **“Live the Legacy: Towards a socio-economic empowered youth”**. Deputy Minister Cronin was accompanied by the Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta) Mr Andries Nel; the MEC for Public Works in the province Ms Johanna Mmule Maluleke; Executive Mayor of Mahikeng Local Municipality Ms Betty Diakanyo as well as a number of senior government officials.

Deputy Minister Nel said the training of participants was in line with President Cyril Ramaphosa’s directive of prioritising youth training and employment. “The Community Works Programme (CWP), which is a sub-programme of the EPWP, provides many young people with opportunities to do useful work in their communities while they (CWP participants) also get to learn new skills. Some of our young people in the CWP have even set up bakery cooperatives and are now working with the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) to provide food to some of the social projects in the North West province Deputy Minister Nel said.

Both Deputy Ministers handed over certificates to all participants who successfully completed the training.

Other senior officials who were part of the event included the Deputy Director General (DDG) of the EPWP Mr Stanley Henderson; the Head of Department of Public Works in the North West Mr Pakiso Mothupi; the Director for Local Government Sector Education and Training Authority (LGSETA) Mr Luxolo Mbila; the EPWP North West Programme Manager Ms Xoliswa Letsapa as well as the Director for Pioneer Business Consulting Mr Zenzele Mthembu.

About the training

The Deputy Director: EPWP Non-State Sector Stakeholder Mobilisation and Training Ms. Mosima Ndlanzi explained that Environmental Practice course is a skills programme that is at National Qualification Framework (NQF) Level 2. “The training was funded by the LGSETA, while we (Department of Public Works) paid the participants’ wages. The LGSETA appointed Pioneer Business Consulting as the training provider,” Ms Ndlanzi explained.

She said the training will provide participants with opportunities to venture into the field of environmental management. “Participants who have successfully completed the training can find work in a number of work streams within the environmental management field,” she added.

The participants who received this training were selected from the following Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs):

- Itireleng NPO in Koster
- Angels of Tomorrow NPO Mahikeng
- Wolmaransdorp meals on wheels NPO from Taung
- CommunityWork Programme (CWP) projects in Ratlou; Mahikeng and Ventersdorp.



The Department of Public Works to train 3500 EPWP Participants in Basic Financial Literacy

Article by Michael Mokoena
Pictures by Maanea Maselesele

In a bid to assist and encourage Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants to use their hard earned wages wisely, the Department of Public Works (DPW) will from June 2018, restart the work of training participants in basic financial literacy. The Department plans to train over 3500 participants in Basic Financial Literacy skills course during the 2018/19 financial year. The Department started training participants in this course in 2016 already, and has since then trained a total of 12 500 participants throughout the country.

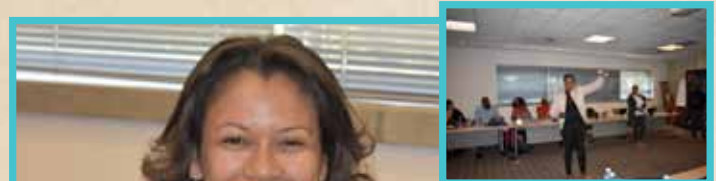
The Deputy Director General (DDG) for EPWP in the Department of Public Works, Mr Stanley Henderson, said the training will provide participants with vital information regarding their personal financial decisions. "The training will empower the participants to make prudent financial decisions with their hard earned wages."



The Deputy Director for EPWP Training Mr Reuben Komana explained that the training will be rolled out in all nine provinces. "The training will help participants to develop personal financial skills such as saving a bit of money from their wages as well as developing their personal monthly budgets. We believe that these skills are vital in assisting our participants to effectively manage their monthly wages." The FSCA's guest facilitator at the staff workshop Ms Phumla Trolly explained to the officials (who are attending the workshop) that the course is vital because it will also provide participants with information regarding their consumer rights as enshrined in the National Credit Act.



To prepare for the training of the participants, the DPW officials in the EPWP Branch have recently attended a workshop at the head office of the Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA) in Pretoria, where they were trained in this particular course.



Government of Bokone Bophirima utilizes the EPWP to involve communities in the fight against crime in the province

Article by Michael Mokoena
Pictures by Michael Mokoena

Community members in Mahikeng in the Bokone Bophirima province are working with the police to combat crime in their localities through an Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) initiative that is implemented by the Department of Community Safety and Transport Management in the Province (DCS&TM). Through the EPWP Community Safety Patroller Project, the DCS&TM has employed - on a temporary basis - a total of 100 community members in Mahikeng to participate in crime fighting and community safety initiatives. The Safety Patrollers do a range of activities such as working with the police to patrol in the communities, as well as doing identification and tracking of suspicious looking people and activities.

“We feel much safer with the EPWP patrollers in our area. They have brought down the number of incidents of robbery as well as those of theft in the city centre. We appeal to the government to recruit more community members – especially the youth - into this project,” Mr Johan Malan an owner of a pharmacy store that is located at Main Street in the town said.

Ms Thandi Melane, the owner of a tombstones store in Station Street, says the Programme has given them (local business owners) an opportunity to also participate in the fight against crime. “We are working very well with the participants. We phone them every time we spot suspicious looking people or activities.”

Lieutenant Colonel Leon Wood of the Visible Police (Vispol) at Mahikeng Police Station commended the EPWP initiative for making members of the community to be part and parcel of crime combating in their communities.

The Director for Crime Prevention Partnerships at DCS&TM Ms Florence Nchoe said the Department started the EPWP Safety Patroller Project in the 2015/16 financial year. “Currently we have a total of 400 participants in the project who are located in all the four municipal districts in the Province. We have allocated 100 participants per district.”

Quoting the National Development Plan (NDP), she explained that for the country to build a safer, crime-free society, “we must place our people at the heart of crime prevention and combating initiatives. This Programme has afforded us an opportunity to do just that – to bring our people on-board in the fight against crime,” Ms Nchoe said.

The Deputy Director for EPWP Social Sector Coordination at the Department of Public Works (DPW) Mahikeng Region Mr Jonny Moloto said that DPW was responsible for the payment of participants’ monthly wages as well as providing them with training.

“Some of the participants have received training in Security Patrol,” he said.



Participants’ testimonials

The participants that were interviewed during the profiling spoke highly of the Programme.

“Being part of the EPWP has given us an opportunity to participate in the efforts of reducing crime in our communities. The tasks that we do include profiling and tracking of suspects; reporting of suspicious looking people and activities to the police as well as regular patrols with the police,” said Ms Kgomuetsile Mogapi.

Another participant Ms Pretty Phiri said that: “being part of the EPWP has given many of us new skills that we can use to enter into formal employment or even set up our own companies. Many of us were unemployed before participating in this Programme. The monthly wages also assist us to put food on the table in our respective homes”.



Department of Tourism to train chefs through the EPWP project

Article by Emmanuel Jiyane

Pictures by Emmanuel Jiyane

The Department of Tourism (DoT) plans to train a total of 577 chefs under its Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) by 2020. According to department's senior manager Ms Portia Rakoma, the DoT has since 2011 trained a total of 294 EPWP participants as chefs.

The participants – most of whom are young people between the ages of 18 to 35 – are being trained through a programme called EPWP National Youth Chefs Training Programme (NYCTP). DoT implements the training programme in partnership with the South African Chefs Association (SACA).

The mission of the programme is to produce qualified chefs within the hospitality and tourism sector.

The programme provides the participants with accredited training in the City and Guilds Certificate in Preparation and Cooking (Culinary Arts). Since 2011, a total of 75 percent of the participants have passed the training, with 36 percent (of those who have passed) having done so with Merit awards and Distinctions. Participants who received this training have graduated with one year Certificates; Diplomas and Advanced Diplomas in City and Guilds in Preparation and Cooking (Culinary Arts). Below is the number of participants who have graduated from the programme since 2011.

- 106 graduated in 10 months Certificate: City Guilds in Preparation and Cooking (Culinary Arts).
- 192 graduated in 2 year Diploma: City Guilds in Preparation and Cooking (Culinary Arts).

The facilitator for the programme in Mpumalanga Ms Buhle Nzama said during training the participants are exposed to both theoretical and practical work.

“The employment rate of the graduates with a Diploma or Advanced Diploma has proven to be much quicker than graduates with a Certificate, which indicates that there is still a need for more advanced or specialised chefs in the tourism sector;” she said.

Ms Buhle Nzama said “The programme is important because it prepares participants for the real world of work in the hospitality industry. In fact this programme is so successful that some of our participants have found employment in cruise ships in countries such as United Kingdom, the United States of America, while others have also started their own catering companies;”

She added that the EPWP Chef programme provides a solid foundation for the production of professional chefs.



Participants' testimonials

The 24-year-old Mr Sikolwethu Nkosi is one of the participants of the programme in Mpumalanga. He explained that, his participation in the programme has taught her a lot about cooking. “As a person with a passion for finer things in life, this programme has taught me a lot about various food preparation techniques. The monthly wage I receive has assisted me to provide for my family.”

Mr Nkosi is currently placed as an EPWP participant at Premium Hotel Winkler in White River (in Mpumalanga) and has already opened his small catering company.

Another participant, Ms Pearl Magagula said being part of the programme assisted her in acquiring various skills such as marketing and business development. Ms Magagula, a mother of two children, is residing in Kamhushwa, Nkomanzi near Nelspruit and she joined the programme in October 2017. “The programme has taught me a lot in terms of how to best prepare food. In fact I have become so much of a good cook that at home, I no longer buy fancy foods from the local shops, but I rather prepare those kind foods for my family.”

Ms Magagula is currently placed as an EPWP participant at the Pestana Kruger Lodge in Malelane.

Young people who have exited the NYS programme get permanent employment

Article by Michael Mokoena
Pictures by Michael Mokoena

A total of 16 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants who have been trained through the National Youth Service (NYS) programme have been “absorbed” by the Falcon Construction Company in Pretoria. Speaking at the graduation ceremony of the participants at the South African National Defence Force Military Base in Thaba Tshwane, the site manager for the company Mr Reward Mukwevho said “we will continue to train and deploy these young people to work on other sites that we are managing”.

The participants have received nine month accredited training in a variety of artisan trades including carpentry, bricklaying as well as building electrification. At the graduation ceremony, the participants were issued with Certificate of Competence in Professional Building Maintenance which is accredited by the Construction Education and Training Authority (CETA). The participants spent six of the nine months on a construction site at the military base where they are part of a team that is building a new kitchen block for the military officers at the site. Three months were spent on theoretical training.

An official of the NYS Mr Phillip Tambane said government will continue to work with the private sector companies such as Falcon Construction to train more EPWP participants under the NYS programme.

The participants thanked the department for having been recruited into the EPWP.



Participants' testimonials

Ms Thandi Monaba said participating in the NYS programme has taught her a lot about the field of construction.

“I started with the programme at the start of the construction project. As a result of being here onsite, I have learned a lot including bricklaying and scaffolding. I truly thank the EPWP for exposing me – particularly as a woman – to the field of construction,” Ms Monaba said.

For Ms Annare Mafa, having participated in the NYS programme has opened a “new world for me”.

“Today I understand that the construction field has an array of opportunities for me as a woman. As we are graduating and exiting the NYS programme today, I am pleased that Falcon Construction Company has committed to bring us on-board on some of their construction projects. I am sure that I am speaking for all my colleagues who were part of the programme when I say that we are truly thankful for the opportunity that has been given to us by the EPWP,” Ms Mafa added.

MEC for Public Works and Infrastructure in the Free State handover certificates to EPWP participants

Article by Emmanuel Jiyane

Pictures by Emmanuel Jiyane

In commemorating the 2018 National Youth Month, the MEC for Public Works and Infrastructure in the Free State Ms Dora Kotzee hosted the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) National Youth Service (NYS) graduation ceremony on 18 June 2018 in Bloemfontein.

The graduation ceremony was part of the Province's 2018 Youth month event which was held under the theme: **'Live the Legacy: Towards a Socio-Economically Empowered Youth'**.

During the ceremony MEC Kotzee awarded accredited certificates to 50 EPWP-NYS participants who have been trained and qualified as electricians.

Delivering her keynote addresses at the event, MEC Kotzee appealed to the graduates to emulate the youth of 1976 in their quest for a better life. "We are proud of your achievement today and we appeal to you to go out in your communities and contribute in the socio-economic upliftment of our people. Your success also gives us an indication that the EPWP is working in achieving its objective of improving the lives of our people," MEC Kotzee said.

Among others, the event was also attended by Ms Sarah Moleleki who is the Chairperson of Portfolio Committee on Public Works, Infrastructure, Roads, Transport and Human Settlement at the Free State Provincial Legislature. Ms Moleleki said she was pleased to see the EPWP contributing in the development of skills among the province's youth.

About the Training

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure in the Free State started the Electrical Apprenticeship Training Qualification: National Occupation Certificate: OFO Code 671101 in 2013. The three year training is accredited by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) and is registered on the Local Government Sector Education Training Authority (LGSETA). The participants did both theoretical and practical training in electrical apprenticeship. The participants were placed at the City of Mangaung owned electricity company called Centlec for practical training. For the duration of the training, Participants received a monthly wage (stipend) of R2200 each. All 50 participants were recruited from all districts in the province.



GALLERY

