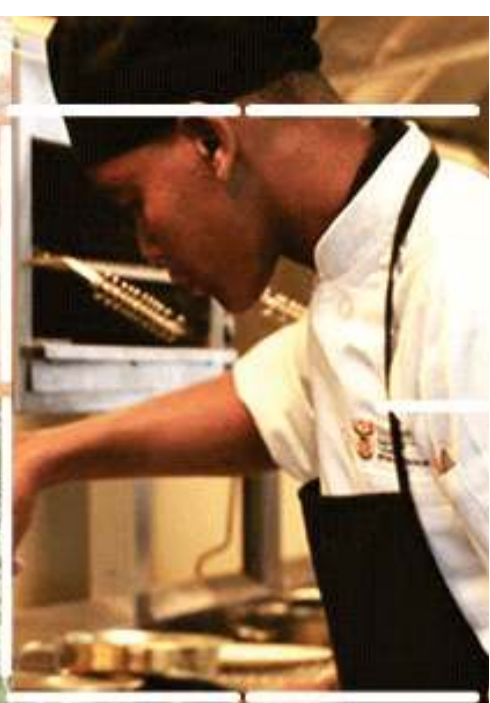


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THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE URGE MUNICIPALITIES TO DRIVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE VUK'UPHILE PROGRAMME

Article by Emmanuel Jiyane and Karen Mthombeni
Pictures by Ofentse Letswalo and Karen Mthombeni

DPWI BUDGET VOTE 2019
The Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure will deliver her budget vote speech for 2019/2020 as follows:

Venue: National Assembly Chamber (New Wing)
Date: 10 July 2019
Time: 18:30

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The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure has called on municipalities to use Vuk'uphile Learner Contractor Programme to drive socio-economic development and upliftment of their communities.

Speaking during Unemployed Youth Open Day in Siyabuswa, Mpumalanga on the 25th of June 2019, the Deputy Director of Vuk'uphile in the department, Ms Unathi Maqoga, urged the municipalities to draw young people and women participants into the Vuk'uphile emerging contractor development programme who will in return through the skills and experience acquired contribute towards delivering the much needed community assets.

Vuk'uphile is a sub-programme of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and it is aimed at developing emerging contractors who will be able to deliver community assets such as storm-water drain and pedestrian roads.

The event was officiated by the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport in the province, Mr Gillion Mashego. The aim of the event was to link young people to work and training opportunities that various government entities are implementing.

MEC Mashego told attendees that government will continue to create work and training opportunities for young people in fields such as tourism and agriculture.

Speaking on behalf of young people in the area, the Chairperson of the Youth Chamber of Commerce & industry in Dr JS Moroka Municipality, Mr Mzwakhe Mahlangu urged government to prioritise youth employment. He also urged the government to invest in youth start-up businesses in the area.

Upcoming events

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure will today (05 July 2019) host a National Youth Service (NYS) exit workshop in Bloemfontein in the Free State



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE HOST NYS EXIT WORKSHOP IN THE FREE STATE

Article & picture by Emmanuel Jiyane

A total of 201 young people who participated and trained through the National Youth Service (NYS) programme in the Free State during the 2018/19 financial year, have officially graduated from the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

The graduation ceremony took place on the 17th April 2019 in Bloemfontein. This province has exceeded its NYS annual target of training 150 participants in the said financial year.

The participants, who all came from the surrounding areas of Mangaung (Bloemfontein, Botshabelo and Thaba-Nchu), were trained in various trades such as bricklaying, plumbing, plastering, painting, roofing as well as carpentry.

The NYS Manager in the province Ms Karabo Malebese, said the participants were recruited into the Programme through the Department of Labour's job seekers database and have received three months theoretical training and six months on-site training. In closing, Ms Malebese said upon graduating,

"participants have an opportunity to further their studies in the construction field, while some of them start their businesses".

"The Programme continues to play a pivotal role in providing young people with skills that they can use to secure future employment in the formal sector,"

Participant's testimonials

For 30-year-old Itumeleng Theane, participating in the programme became a ticket to securing employment in the construction sector.

"The work experience that I received in the Programme afforded me an opportunity to find work at a local construction company called Ruwecon, where I work as a plumber."

He explained that, while he was in the Programme, he was trained in plumbing and painting. "I was also trained and acquired certificates in Occupational Health and Safety and in First Aid".

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EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME