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# THE NORTH WEST DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TAKE A STEP TOWARDS ADDRESSING YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Article & pictures by: Emmanuel Jiyane



## Upcoming events

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure is participating in an exhibition at the Small Business Development Expo that is hosted by the Northern Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Nocci) in Kimberley. The expo, which started yesterday (01 August 2019), ends tomorrow.

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure will on 09 August 2019 exhibit at the National Women's Day event in Vryburg, North West.



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The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure in collaboration with the North West Department of Community Safety and Transport have embarked on providing Traffic Management training to 100 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants who have been recruited from different areas in the North West Province.

This is a 12 months (January-December 2019) training initiative taking place in Mpumalanga Traffic College in Mkhuhlu, Nelspruit. Upon the successful completion of this training programme, the participants will be permanently employed by the North West (NW) province as Traffic Officers.

The North West government through the Department of Community Safety and Transport Management identified the need to address the shortage of traffic officers in the province through Traffic Management training which would contribute towards reduction of unemployment among youth. The participants in this training are young people between 18 and 35 years of age with no criminal record as one of the requirements.

A 22 year old Habib Rehman is one of the participants of this training, before he joined the Programme he was a drop-out from Brooklyn City College North West because of financial constraints at home. "I saw an advert on the local newspaper and "as an unemployed youth, I never hesitated to grab an opportunity to respond to the advertisement and applied for this training".

The training of the participants covers both practical and theoretical aspects of traffic management. Upon completion of this training he

wants to further his studies with the North West University so that he can be a qualified Public Service Administrator.

Ms Motlatsi Moatshe, is a 26 year old woman who also hails from North West and partake in the training. "When one gets opportunity he/she must grab it with both hands, respond to the advertisement accordingly and submit applications on time because you do not know what tomorrow may bring, especially because of the Socio-economic state of our country where there is a high rate of unemployment among youth".

In addition to the training, Ms Moatshe said they were trained on time management, respect for one another, discipline and interpersonal skills. "Through this training opportunity I see my life changing for the better, with the stipend that I am receive, I buy my cosmetics and assist with the basic needs at home.

I wish that government can roll- out these kind of opportunities to all the provinces because they have a long term future prospects of ensuring that we are permanently employed by the Department after completing our training.

Today it is so rare to be trained and be employed permanently, even the graduates from Universities find it difficult to secure a permanent job, Ms Moatshe emphasised.

In closing, Ms Moatshe extended her gratitude to the EPWP and the relevant stakeholders for such a great opportunity.

## NYS GRADUATES IN THE FREE STATE RECEIVE CERTIFICATES

Article & picture by Maanea Maselesele

The Bloemfontein Regional Office of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure recently awarded certificates to 20 young people who have successfully completed the department's National Youth Service (NYS) training which comprised of 3 months theoretical training and 6 months of practical training.

The participants were trained in a number of trades, including plastering, bricklaying, building, first aid and safety. The participants are from the Free State Province and were all recruited through the Department of Labour's database for jobseekers.

Speaking during the ceremony to handing over of certificates to EPWP Participants which was held on 05 July 2019 in Bloemfontein, the Chief Executive Officer of Magareng Civil Laboratory, Mr Patrick Klaas encouraged the participants to use the skills they have learned

in the Programme to find employment or set-up small businesses.

"Use your skills and the certificates that you have acquired to open the door for yourselves. If you have passion for something, you must pursue it until you get it right," Mr. Klaas said.

The Deputy Director for EPWP Enterprise Development in the department Mr Selaocwe Kabelo also encouraged youth to start their own businesses and create employment for other youth. "Do not underestimate your capabilities...set yourself small milestones that will take you towards your goal," Mr. Kabelo said.

NYS is a year-long skills training and development intervention which is at providing unemployed South African youth with technical skills, practical work experience and mentoring to become employable.