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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE HOSTS EPWP VIRTUAL LEARNING PROGRAMME

Article by Michael Mokoena
Pictures by Maanea Maselesele

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) recently hosted a Virtual Learning Programme with various municipalities that are implementing the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). The five-day workshop (EPWP learning programme) provided municipal officials with valuable information regarding the EPWP and its implementation.

In her official opening remarks, the Acting Deputy Director General of the EPWP, Ms Carmen-Joy Abrahams encouraged the attendees to learn as much as they can about the Programme and to also engage with each other on ways they can effectively implement the EPWP.

During the workshop, various EPWP managers made presentations on sectors they are responsible for. A presentation made by the Deputy Director for Vuk'uphile Contractor Development Programme, Mr Osborne Neluvhalani, focused on information about the EPWP Infrastructure Sector.

Mr Neluvhalani said it was important for municipalities to choose appropriate EPWP infrastructure projects that will create optimum employment and draw significant number of the unemployed into the Programme.

Other managers who made presentations included Mr Hlamalang Come, Mr Lungisani Dladla, Ms Sanny Maluleka, Mr Tshifhiwa Nkhumeleni and Dr Mapule Mkhathshwa-Ngwenya.

While Mr Come's presentation focuses on work opportunities creation in the Environment and Culture sector, Ms Maluleka made an extensive presentation on the Social sector. Dr Mkhathshwa-Ngwenya's presentation encouraged municipalities to monitor and evaluate their EPWP projects.

Municipal officials who attended the virtual workshop were allowed to ask questions on each presentation. The EPWP Virtual Learning Programme was facilitated by EPWP Programme Management unit.

Why are Vaccines important?

- To prevent morbidity & mortality
- To achieve herd immunity & prevent ongoing transmission

When a person gets vaccinated against a disease, their risk of infection is also reduced.

#VaccineRolloutStrategySA



EPWP ASSISTING IN TACKLING COVID-19 IN AMAHLATHI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE EASTERN CAPE

Article by Michael Mokoena
Pictures by Amahlathi Local Municipality



The Amahlathi Local Municipality in the Eastern Cape has initiated an Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) project to assist in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic.

The municipality is implementing a Compliance-Monitoring Covid-19 EPWP project that is focused at creating awareness about Covid-19 and encouraging the community to sanitise and adhere to social distancing. The EPWP coordinator at the municipality, Ms Xoliswa Mngcotane indicated that the project has been helpful in getting community members to work with government to tackle the pandemic.

"We thank our community for working with the EPWP participants to ensure adherence to Covid-19 regulations," Mngcotane said. Explaining the operation of the project, Acting Chief of Fire Service at the municipality, Mr Louis Mostert said the

EPWP participants are deployed to hotspots such as taxi ranks, social grant pay-points, shopping centres and other crowded areas to sanitise and ensure that community members adhere to social distancing.

He pointed out that in the implementation of the project, municipality was working with various stakeholders including the local police, departments of Health, Social Development as well as the Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs.

"We are also pleased with the positive engagement that the public is having with the participants and the work they do," Mostert said. The municipality currently has 12 EPWP participants who are working in this project. Most of the participants are young people and seven of them are women. They earn a daily wage of R100 and work eight hours a day for a maximum of 23 days a month.

The Deputy Director responsible for Social Sector in the Eastern Cape, Mr Ndaba Sobuce hailed the work done by the EPWP at Amahlathi Local Municipality.

Participants' testimonials

For Ms Linda Fulathela who is 30 years old, being part of the project has a fulfilling experience. "It has been very exciting because I have learned a lot from the project. One of the skills that I have learned is engaging with people," she said.

Ms Babalwa Maweni, 28, said that the monthly stipend she received assisted her to provide for her loved one.

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EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME