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EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME

# THE EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME CONTRIBUTES TOWARDS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN POTCHEFSTROOM

Article: by Lesego Moretlwe, pictures by: Rhoda Moroe



Kgolo GC Doors PTY LTD is a Door Manufacturing project identified by Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality as an income generating project eligible for financial support. This Integrated Grant funded project is located in J. B. Marks Local Municipality in the Potchefstroom area in the North West Province.

Since its commencement in July 2021, this Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) project has created 25 work opportunities for young people and women in Potchefstroom. The participants work for 21 days in a month and receive a stipend of R2 500.

The project is implemented together with other spheres of government and its entities as a collaborative effort to reduce the unemployment and contribute towards improving livelihoods within the community of Potchefstroom. The EPWP unit in Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality provides funding for the payment of stipends while the National

Department of Public Works and Infrastructure through the EPWP Enterprise Development unit provides the overall support to start, operate and sustain the enterprise.

Since the start of the project, the EPWP Enterprise Development unit has conducted an assessment to identify the training needs and business interventions relevant for the business enterprise and identified some gaps such as the need for technical and business training. Another partner in this project is Small Enterprise Development Agency in Potchefstroom which is responsible for technical training and mentorship support. In addition to that, the project owner provide machinery, tools and material to manufacture doors.

For the duration of the implementation of the project, the participants will acquire carpentry and business skills which are the main aspects of the project. This project is envisaged to manufacture and sell doors to the hardware wholesalers, hardware stores, individual customers and also supply building construction companies in Potchefstroom and neighbouring areas and all over the country.

The EPWP coordinator in the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality, Ms Fikile Mothibedi said she was very happy about the project since it is a community development project and the only door manufacturing project in the North West. She further said with the knowledge and experience that the participants will acquire for the duration of the project will enable them to exit into permanent employment or become entrepreneurs.

Currently the project is communicating with hardware stores in some parts of Gauteng and North West and signing service level agreements that will allow them to do business together.

## DPWI PROVIDES FINANCIAL TRAINING TO LIMPOPO VUK'UPHILE CONTRACTORS

Article by Maanea Maselesele, pictures by Victoria Mphahlele

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) recently hosted a three- day training workshop on Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) at Muledane Disaster Centre in Limpopo from 21 to 23 September 2021. The purpose of this session was to provide information to EPWP Vuk'uphile contractors on how to improve and grow their businesses.

Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) is a management training programme for owners and managers of small enterprises who want to sustain their business, increase sales and reduce cost. It addresses the core question of how to improve the performance of your business.

Fifteen (15) contractors from Vhembe District attended the training and showed appreciation for this opportunity. "We are grateful to have received this training", said Ms Pearl Shilenge one of the contractors from Malamulele.

"We have learned a lot, especially on costing and pricing. The training was eye opener and will assist us to grow our business going forward" Shilenge added

According to the Deputy Director EPWP Enterprise Development, Ms Victoria Mphahlele, the three-day training session covered the following modules: Marketing, Stock taking, Record keeping, and importance of buying, Costing, People management and Productivity.

"We are hoping to see growth in your businesses after this training. You must also use the information you have received from this training to enhance your businesses," Mphahlele told the Vuk'uphile contractors in her closing remarks.