



EPWP Bi-Weekly Bulletin

MINISTER DE LILLE ENGAGES WITH YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE BEING TRAINED THROUGH THE EPWP-AGRISETA ARTISAN PROGRAMME IN THE FREE STATE

By Michael Mokoena, pictures by Maanea Maselesele



During her interaction with the participants, Minister De Lille was joined by the Deputy Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Ms. Noxolo Kiviet, Deputy Director General of EPWP, Ms. Carmen-Joy Abrahams, DPWI Bloemfontein Regional Manager, Ms. Thobile Zulu, as well as other senior officials who are responsible to the implementation of the EPWP.

Speaking to officials who attended the event, Minister De Lille said that government must look at upscaling the EPWP so that more people - especially the youth, women, and people with disabilities- are given opportunities in the Programme. She stressed that the government had to be more ambitious in its drive to create work and training opportunities for unemployed South Africans.

Minister De Lille added that the Department was proud to be working with the AgriSETA and various private sector companies to implement the Programme. The representative of AgriSETA, Mr. Medupi Shabangu – said that the entity remained committed to ensuring the success of the Programme.

Participants Testimonials

During their engagements with the Minister, the participants shared positive experiences they had in the Programme. Mr. Martin Ngale who is studying Boilermaking (through the EPWP-AgriSETA Artisan Development Programme) at Matu TVET College said that the skills that he was acquiring will assist him to one day open a small factory to contribute to the creation of work for his community.

The Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Ms. Patricia De Lille, has praised young people who are participating in the Artisan Development Programme which is facilitated and implemented by the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) in partnership with the Agriculture Sector Education and Training Authority (AgriSETA).

Speaking to the participants during a recent departmental event in Bloemfontein, Free State Province, Minister De Lille said that she was inspired by the positive stories that the learners were sharing with her. "I am truly inspired by the positive attitude of these young people. I am convinced that the future of our country is in good hands," Minister De Lille said.

She encouraged the participants to learn as much as they can from the Programme so that they can contribute to the socio-economic upliftment of their communities.



EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME COOPERATIVE CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS POVERTY ALLEVIATION

Article by : Lesego Moretlwe, pictures by: Rhoda Moroe

Tiro ya Diatla Farming and Projects Cooperative has contributed towards poverty alleviation in North West Province by implementing the Berseba Agrarian project. This agricultural project is implemented through the Community Work Programme (CWP) which is coordinated and funded by the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA).

Tiro ya Diatla farming and Projects Cooperative is a Small Medium and Micro Enterprise (SMME) Cooperative located in Berseba village, Rustenburg Local Municipality under Bojanala District Municipality.

This project was implemented during the 2021/22 financial year and created 12 work opportunities which accounted to 06 young people, 07 women and 01 person with disability. The participants were working for 8 days per month and their wage rate being R105.00 per day.

The objective of the project was to address food security through the establishment of a vegetable garden and piggery. This project was supported by multiple stakeholders and one of them being the traditional leadership of Bakwena ba Mogopa who availed the 200 hectares of land and made it accessible for the purpose of implementation of the project.

The Activities of the project included: Pig rearing and production, planting different vegetables; marketing and selling produced products; identification of different markets to sell the produce and harvesting of produce; and land preparation/crop rotation.

The project has benefitted the communities of Berseba, Modikoe and Makolokwe villages. The long term plan of the project is to establish a 100 sow's piggery project that will be fully commercialised for sustainability beyond support by COGTA. This agrarian project was one of the thirty five agrarian projects implemented across the country.

Other support was offered through the established partnerships as follows: Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Enterprise Development Unit – overall support to start, operate and sustain enterprises, Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs – provide financial support for equipment, stipend and consumables while Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) Rustenburg branch, North West Province – provided referral for technical training and mentorship support.

The participants acquired training on the following: Basic first aid training and ILO Start your business training focusing on costing, marketing and record keeping.

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