



EPWP Bi-Weekly Bulletin

EPWP PARTICIPANT SECURE FORMAL EMPLOYMENT INTERNATIONALLY

Article by: Lesego Moretlwe, pictures by: Johnny Moloto and Xoliswa Letsapa



The Rustenburg Local Municipality hosted a heart-warming farewell function for one of its Expanded Public Works Programme firefighter participant and reservist, Mr Sello Desire Macheke who exited into a formal employment in Saudi Arabia. Mr Macheke who was honoured in absentia participated in the EPWP Fire & Emergency Reservist programme since December 2021 and acquired knowledge and skills which provided him with competencies to apply for job opportunities locally and internationally.

In her keynote address, MMC for public safety in the municipality, Cllr Mputle sent her well wishes to Mr Macheke in his undertaking of the new job. Cllr Mputle indicated that firefighters face successes and challenges as a team, hence “his success is our success, you have also made a contribution to his achievement, collectively you faced challenges and you managed to overcome them”. Cllr Mputle reminded Mr Macheke that he is not only going to Saudi Arabia for himself but to represent Rustenburg Local Municipality Fire-fighters and South Africa. “Go there and fly the South African flag high”! She concluded.

The chief fire officer in Rustenburg Local Municipality, Mr Ramothwala congratulated Mr Macheke and encouraged the firefighters to never get stuck in one place but to study further and work hard in order to pursue brighter future. “The achievement that we are witnessing today, tells us that you can do it, you must have ambitions. We are encouraging you to aim high and we appreciate your discipline, commitment and saving lives”. Ramothwala said.

Responding to the farewell gesture, Mr Macheke said he was very thankful for every word that was spoken in his absence and appreciated everyone who took their time and became part of the occasion. “Know that I value everything that has took place on that special day and I am honored to have been part of the journey. All in all I'm still yours to shine with and I will honour you all by showing off my given skills and by keeping the South African flag as high as possible”, he said.

The Fire & Emergency Reservist programme is an EPWP initiative and its focus is to create work opportunities and provide skills training. The programme is spearheaded by the Rustenburg Local Municipality's Public Safety Directorate and its objective is to assist the municipality to decrease fire incidents so as to ensure that communities are safer. A total of 20 EPWP participants were recruited to supplement the permanent staff members of the fire department in the municipality. The recruitment criteria for this programme was based on the physical fitness, matric certificate, Driver's licence, Fire Fighter I and II Certificate or equivalent.

While in the Programme, the participants are required to undergo relevant training opportunities which increase the participants' chances of employability. The activities of this project include: Responding to all emergencies, testing of all emergency appliances/equipment in accordance with standard procedures and the results recorded, maintaining and testing fire appliances and equipment, pre-fire planning inspections and performing control room duties. ■



THE EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME HOSTED THE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE WEBINAR ON PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME LANDSCAPE IN SOUTH AFRICA

Article by Michael Mokoena and Kgomotso Mathuloe, pictures by Kgomotso Mathuloe



The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) hosted the Community of Practice Webinar on the 30 September 2022 to discuss Public Employment Programmes (PEPs) Landscape in South Africa. Addressing the Webinar, Dr Kate Phillips, Programme Lead for the Presidential Employment Stimulus said that the Webinar is an opportunity to come together and reposition Public Employment Programme and strengthen their developmental role.

She further encouraged the implementers of PEPs to make the community approach real starting with the reforms within the Community Work Programme (CWP). Dr Phillips also said that there is a need for innovation in delivering PEPs which entails: The need for rapid roll-out catalyzed innovation in way that enable new scale efficiency and outreach, the use of digital recruitment, application and reporting platforms and improve payment system to avoid delays and improve efficiency.

Another speaker was Mr Pankie Matomela, Chief Director at the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional (COGTA) who presented on Community Works Programme (CWP), one of the Non-state sector sub-programmes. He said that the CWP remained an employment safety net for poor and unemployed South Africans. “The CWP ensures useful work projects that contribute to the development of public assets and services in poor communities.”

“In addition to providing useful work opportunities and the development of public assets and services in poor communities, the CWP is contributing to the strengthening of public participation in local development planning and community development, complementing the Public Participation policy of

Government. The programme also creates an institutional mechanism that compliments integrated development at the local level and also strengthens 'economic 'agency' for the economically marginalized and creates an alternative to 'dependency'.”

DPWI's Deputy Director General for EPWP, Ms. Carmen-Joy Abrahams used the webinar to highlight the importance of the EPWP Policy which is currently being formulated by the Department. She encouraged all stakeholders to participate in the formulation of the Policy and to also work together to strengthen efforts to create work opportunities for the poor and unemployed South Africans.

Ms Lindiwe Nkuna, Director: PEP Technical Secretariat, provided a detailed historical context of the Expanded Public Works Programme and the role the Programme played in the alleviation of poverty and unemployment in the country.

“The primary objective of Public Employment Programmes (PEPs) may differ. Some have social protection/assistance/provision of income as a primary objective are set up to ensure that wage payments are made even when there are operational setbacks. Others are focused strongly on service/infrastructure delivery”.

She added that at a personal level, PEPs may have multiple benefits to participants, such as providing income, skills development, small business development, or employment services.

The webinar was attended by senior government officials from the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) as well as officials from various entities that are implementing the EPWP.

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