



EPWP Bi-Weekly Bulletin

MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH APPOINTS EPWP PARTICIPANTS TO ASSIST EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES UNITS AT VARIOUS HOSPITALS IN THE PROVINCE

Article By Pelokazi Baliso and Michael Mokoena, Pictures By Pelokazi Baliso

The Mpumalanga Department of Health has appointed 47 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants on a 12 month contract through a programme called EPWP Emergency Support Services which is located within the EPWP Social Sector. The participants assumed their duties in October 2022 and they will assist in providing non-medical services to Emergency Medical Services (EMS) units at health facilities across the province.

The participants will perform services such as cleaning and maintenance of EMS station premises and surroundings, washing, vacuuming, and polishing EMS vehicles (ambulances) at facilities where they are placed. The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) recently visited the Gert Sibande District Hospital in Ermelo- Mpumalanga where 16 participants are placed. The project visit was led by both the Deputy Director for EPWP Social Sector at the Head Office of DPWI, Ms. Masego Maselwanyane, and the Deputy Director responsible for EPWP Social Sector in Mpumalanga, Ms. Lindiwe Motloutng.

According to the DOH's EMS District Manager at Gert Sibande, Mr. Shuping Moeketsane, the work of the participants has assisted in improving the operations of the EMS services at the respective facilities. "The cleaning services offered by the EPWP participants have assisted our EMS personnel to focus most of their time and energy on responding to emergency medical callouts. The EMS staff no longer spend a lot of time cleaning ambulances as that part is now taken care of by the EPWP participants," Moeketsane explained.

To ensure the health and safety of the participants at work, Moeketsane explained that the Department has given them (participants) basic training on cleaning of EMS station premises and its surrounding. "However, when it comes to the cleaning of ambulances, participants do not deal with medical instruments that may have blood or any medical specimen," he added.

In his presentation on the technical information about the Programme - EPWP Emergency Support Services- Moeketsane explained that the participants were appointed in October 2022 on a 12-month contract.

"In the Gert Sibande District, the participants serve several facilities including the Ermelo District Hospital. They work for eight hours a day for five days a week and they receive a monthly stipend of R3000," he added.

The acting Station Manager for EMS at Ermelo District Hospital, Mr. Esau Magagula welcomed the appointment of 16 participants that are placed at the facility. "We are happy with the work that they are doing," he said.

Some of the activities carried out by the participants include:

- Assisting with the on/offloading of deliveries
- Removing refuse and manage waste bins
- Maintenance of the garden including watering, pruning, and trimming flowers
- Maintenance of gardening equipment and tools
- Repairing minor defects of cleaning and garden tools
- Applying insecticides, cultivate the soil for trees and flowers
- Performing general work as delegated by the supervisor

Participants Testimonials

The participants have thanked the government for appointing them to the EPWP projects. Ms. Nokuthula Kapa explained that being in the Programme has given her hope. "Since I have joined the Programme I am able to provide for my family, I can now pay school fees for my kids. It has been the great experience with EPWP" she said.

Ms. Zanele Dlamini who is also a participant in the project said that they are proud and happy to be one of the participants. ■

DPWI HOSTS EPWP LEARNING PROGRAMME IN PRETORIA

Article by Pelokazi Baliso and Lerato Mpiwa

Pictures by Pelokazi Baliso Lerato Mpiwa, and Sobatini Mahlasela

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) has recently hosted a five-day training programme for public bodies that are responsible for the implementation of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). The training session was held in Pretoria, Gauteng from 21-25 November 2022.

The EPWP Learning Programme was aimed at providing attendees with in-depth knowledge and understanding of the EPWP. Furthermore, the Programme sought to ensure that these officials are well capacitated to efficiently and effectively implement the EPWP in their respective communities.

The workshop was attended by officials from various municipalities and provincial departments across the country who are responsible for the implementation of the EPWP in their respective entities. In her opening remarks, the Deputy Director General (DDG) of the EPWP, Ms. Carmen-Joy Abrahams urged the attendees to use the session to learn as

much as they can about the Programme so that they can contribute to the creation of work opportunities for their communities.

"This training will give you an in-depth understanding of the EPWP. It will assist you to come up with innovative ways to create the much-needed work opportunities in your communities," she said. She added that the attendees were part of a very important government initiative whose aim was to lift millions of people out of poverty and provide hope to communities.

Closing the event at the end of the five days, the officials were awarded certificates of attendance. The Chief Director- EPWP Operations, Ms. Pearl Lukwago Mugerwa thanked the officials for attending. "The engagement of all the attendees gives me hope. I hope everyone who attended this session learnt more about the programme and will return to their areas to help the government's efforts to combat poverty by creating EPWP employment opportunities" Ms. Mugerwa said. ■

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EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME