



GOVERN MBEKI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN MPUMALANGA HAS APPOINTED EPWP PARTICIPANTS TO ASSIST WITH WATER AND ELECTRICITY METER READINGS IN THE MUNICIPALITY

Article and pictures by Pelokazi Baliso



The Govern Mbeki Local Municipality in Mpumalanga has appointed 37 EPWP participants to assist with its water and electricity billing services. The EPWP Coordinator at the Municipality, Mr. Sibusiso Ndlovu, explained that through the EPWP Meter Reading Project, the municipality has been able to provide residents with accurate monthly water and electricity bills.

"The project has not only assisted the municipality to provide residents with accurate water and electricity bill accounts, but has also helped the municipality to create the much-needed work opportunities in the community," he said.

Ndlovu explained that he was pleased with the performance of the participants in the project.

Participants are spread across various municipal areas such as Secunda, Embalenhle, Bethel, Leslie, Kinross, and Evander. "Participants work within the communities they were recruited from," he said.

The EPWP Champion at the municipality, Mr. Yakhani Sondlo, provided detailed information on EPWP projects at the municipality. In his presentation, he explained that the municipality has been able to utilise the EPWP to deliver community beneficial services and assets.

"The EPWP has also assisted us in uplifting the socio-economic conditions of our residents through the provision of work opportunities for the unemployed," he added.

Turning to the EPWP Meter Reading Project, Sondlo pointed out that the municipality was pleased with the performance of the participants in the project.

"Another positive impact of the EPWP is that participants can use the knowledge and skills they have obtained from the project to look for formal employment in the job market," he added.

The visit to Govan Mbeki Local Municipality was led by the Deputy Director for EPWP Social Sector, Ms. Masego Maselwanyane, and the Deputy Director responsible for EPWP Social Sector in Mpumalanga, Ms. Lindiwe Motlounge.

Participant testimonial

Ms. Sibongiseni Mtsweni, one of the participants explained that as a meter reader, she is constantly interacting and communicating with people and thus the project has improved her communication skills. She also mentioned that the stipend that she receives from the project makes a difference in her life, since she is providing for her children and her family. ■

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT HOSTS EPWP CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP

Article and pictures by Khanyisa Moagi

The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Social Sector has recently hosted a two-day Capacity Building Workshop to unpack the objectives and goals of the Programme. The workshop was led by the Department of Social Development (DSD) as the lead sector of the EPWP Social Sector.

The success in the implementation of the Social Sector is to ensure that stakeholders are educated about the goals and objectives of the Sector. The objective highlighted in the presentation states: "To provide work opportunities and income support to the poor and unemployed people through labour-intensive delivery of public and community assets and services thereby contributing to development."

Overview of the EPWP Social Sector presented by the Director: SPO, Advocate Sam Maifadi, highlighted the services rendered by DSD in all three spheres of government, i.e. National, Provincial and Municipal levels. Sub-programmes implemented under Social Sector Department and Sector lead Departments comprise of:

- Home Community Based Care - drop-in centres, health utilities, malaria control, behaviour change
- Early Childhood Development - child minders, ECD Practitioners, ECD Learnership
- National School Nutrition Programme - Food handlers, Mass Literacy Programme, Educators

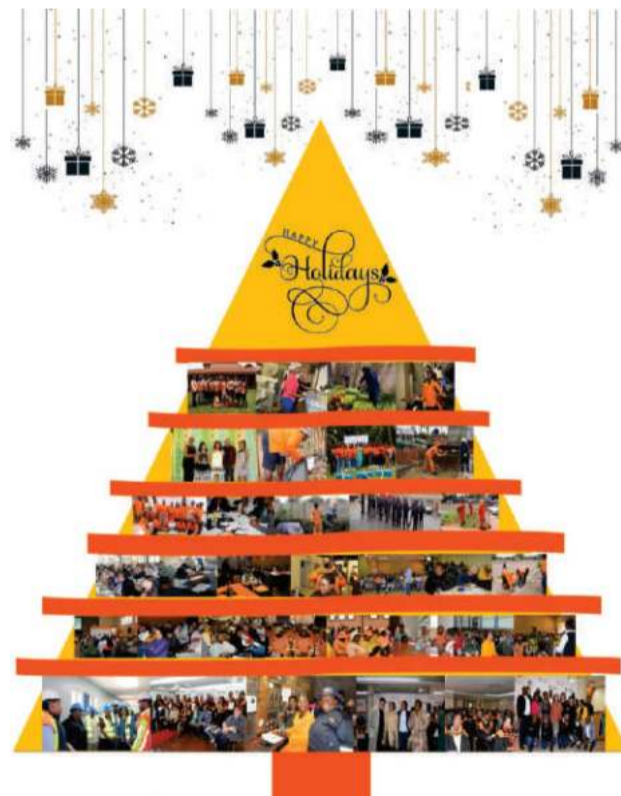
- Community Safety Programme - Community Policing and Patrolling, Volunteer Social Crime Prevention, Tourism Safety Monitors, School Safety Patroller

- Mass Participation Programme - School Sports Coordinators, Community Based Sports Coordinators, School Sports Coaches.

- Expansion Programme - Pharmacy Assistant, Record Management Officer, Facility Assistant, Data Captures and Admin Support, Extra Support Programme

Day 2 of the EPWP Social Sector capacity building programme workshop further deliberated and presented topics to strengthen the buy-in and understanding of how the sector can be successfully implemented. The discussions gave insight on EPWP prescripts such as the recruitment guidelines, Ministerial Determination and other policies governing the implementation of EPWP.

Amongst the challenges raised by the various stakeholders within the province is the issue of signing contracts, the duration of the contract term, and the behaviour of the participants while still under the contract of short-term employment.



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EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME