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EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME

# MINISTER ZIKALALA VISITED THE EPWP ROAD PAVING PROJECT IN EASTERN CAPE

Article by Kgomotso Mathuloe, pictures by Maanea Maselesele

The Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Honourable Sihle Zikalala visited the road paving project in Emalahleni Local Municipality in Cacadu, Eastern Cape on 10 August 2023. The project visit was part of the Pre-Presidential Imbizo Outreach Programme which was held on 11 August 2023 in Eastern Cape

The project which is funded through EPWP Integrated Incentive Grant created 30 work opportunities for the unemployed people in the areas. The project started in July 2023 and is expected to be completed by June 2024 with the cost of R1.4 million.

Addressing the Participants at the project site, Minister Zikalala encouraged them to use the skills they acquired effectively so that they can improve their livelihoods. The Minister also alluded that the project does not have a clear exit strategy, the EPWP branch should ensure that the participants are assisted

to form cooperatives and are able to manufacture the paving brick that they use in this project. The Minister further complimented the Municipality for co-funding this community beneficial project.

One of the EPWP participants working on the project is Ms Babalwa Nyali who thanked the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) as well as the Emalahleni Local Municipality for affording her the opportunity to participate in the project. Ms Nyali said that through this project she was able to acquire crucial skills on how to do paving.

Ms Nyali also said that this project will assist the community especially the road users who were previously driving on a gravel road. She added that this project has also provided the much needed work opportunities for the community of Cacadu.

## **EPWP PARTICIPANTS GRADUATE IN LANDSCAPING**

Article & pictures by Maanea Maselesele



A total of 20 EPWP participants in Limpopo have been awarded with certificates of competency for successfully completing an accredited training on National Certificate: Landscaping Skills Programme at NQF 3. The ceremony was held at Nthame Primary school Hall in Burgersfort - Sekhukhune East District, Limpopo. The ceremony was officiated by Ms Tsakani Maringa, the Assistant Director EPWP Training Coordination

The Participants are employed as gardeners at various Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres around the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality and were selected to be trained on landscaping. The training consisted of theoretical (8 days) and workplace (14 days) training which was delivered over 22 days. After the training the participants will continue working at their respective ECD centres around Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality and receive monthly stipend.

Ms Phuti Ngoasheng, the EPWP Training Manager in Limpopo encouraged participants to use the skills they have gained from the training to start the vegetable gardens where they will sell some of the produce to supplement the monthly stipend, and to be independent and self-sustainable beyond the EPWP project.

The training was a joint venture between the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure and Limpopo Department of Health. The training was offered by the accredited Training Provider, JNV Landscaping and Training (Pty) Ltd.

### Participants were trained on the following Unit standards:

- Identify and control common pests in the horticultural environment
- Apply biological and chemical control of alien plants
- Prune shrubs and other ornamental plants
- Arrange and install a plant decoration

In his message of support, the Deputy Chief Education Specialist at the Department of Education in Sekhukhune District, Mr Phakoago advised the participants to "please go out there and use your skills, knowledge and experience that you accumulated during the training, go out there and create employment for others". Participants appreciated the opportunity granted to them and thanked the EPWP for changing their lives.

Among the attendees were Ms Mmamotshabo Kganyago, the EPWP Social Sector Manager in Limpopo and the EPWP Training Coordinator Ms Melika Nkuna as well as other officials from the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure and Limpopo Provincial Department of Education