



EPWP Bi-Weekly Bulletin

DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HON. BERNICE SWARTS DELIVERED A KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT THE MPUMALANGA EPWP SUMMIT

Article by: Kgomotso Mathuloe, pictures by: Sobathini Mahlasela



The Deputy Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Honourable Bernice Swarts has on 02 November 2023 delivered a Keynote address at the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Mpumalanga Summit held at Steve Tshwete Local Municipality in Middleburg.

The two-day summit was an interactive session to take stock of what has been achieved by the Mpumalanga Provincial government since the start of EPWP Phase 4 in 2019 and plan ahead for the phase 5 of the Programme.

Addressing the Summit, the Deputy Minister Swarts said that EPWP has in the current financial year, 2023/2024 created 610 882 work opportunities and accumulatively created more than 4.5 million work opportunities since the start of Phase IV in 2019/2020 financial year.

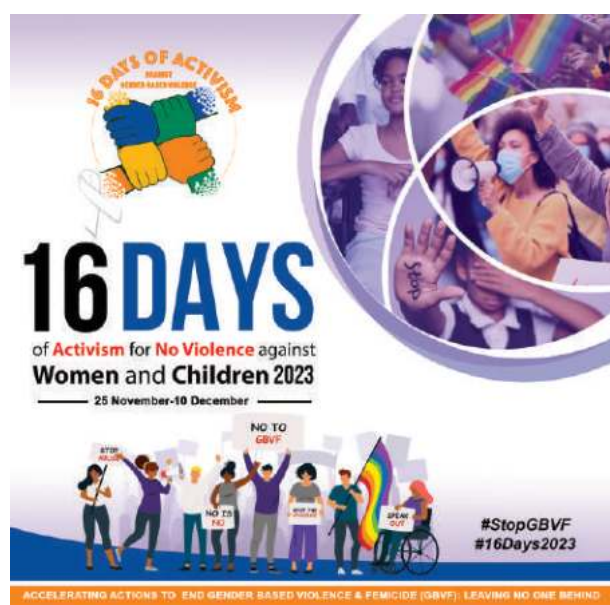
The Deputy Minister also highlighted the role of EPWP in the Socio-economic upliftment of the communities. "Since the EPWP recruits people to do useful work in their respective communities, research shows that community members who participates in the Programme spend a substantial amount of their wages in their respective communities, which in turn contributes to the socio-economic improvement of these very communities.

The figures we have highlighted are not just mere numbers. Those figures represent women and men who are participating in the EPWP to carry out vital developmental work in our communities."

The Deputy Minister added that the community members who are working in EPWP contribute to the delivery of beneficial community services such as caring for the elderly and the sickly, looking after children through work they perform at Early Childhood Development centres in various communities as well as ensuring that children eat nutritious meals at school through the government's School Nutrition Programme.

Summit delegates attended commissions and deliberated on the following:

- Increasing work opportunities using Labour Intensive Construction methods in all the implemented programme and projects
- Increase the participation of youth and people with disabilities into the Programme
- Skilling and training of participants and implementation of the enterprise development programmes as part of the exit strategy
- Improving successful coordination and implementation of EPWP



Bulletin issued by Communications & Marketing



THE EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME (EPWP) WELCOME THE NEWLY APPOINTED DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL, MR NTOKOZO CHONCO

Article and pictures: by Lerato Mpiwa

The EPWP branch has on 16 November 2023 welcomed the Deputy Director General (DDG) Mr. Ntokozi Chonco, who was appointed as the DDG of EPWP with effect from November 2023. This is subsequent to the transfer of DDG Carmen Abrahams to Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) Professional Services Branch.

The meeting was officiated by the DPWI Acting Director General (DG) Adv. Richard Sizani, who welcomed and introduced Mr. Chonco to the EPWP officials. This was an interactive session which allowed the officials a platform to engage with the new DDG.

In his response to the warm welcome by the EPWP Head Office officials, Mr Chonco thanked the officials for their support and shared initiatives that the branch can explore to intensify service delivery within the existing budget and draw a significant number of participants into the Programme.

"Let us work as a team, and remember that the important element in all that we do, is those that are expecting service delivery from us" said Mr. Chonco.

