

# EPWP BULLETIN

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## FORMER EXPANDED PUBLIC WORK PROGRAMME PARTICIPANT OPENS A CHARCOAL MANUFACTURING BUSINESS

Article by: Tumelo Sekwele Pictures by: Kopano Mpya (Former EPWP Participant)

Mr. Kopano Judicious Mpya, a 29-year-old from Arrie Village in Polokwane, Limpopo, started his own firm, Bakgethwa Enterprise Pty Ltd, which produces and sells charcoal and wood. The business is situated in Ga-kibi (Arrie-Village) and produces charcoal and firewood. The business is registered with the Companies intellectual Property Commission (CIPC).

Mpya participated in the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) from June 2017 till November 2018. His duties included data capturing on the Expanded Public works Programme Reporting System (EPWPRS), doing site visits checking the sign boards and inspection of newly built tribal authority offices and conducting workshops. His company seeks to provide sustainable energy while empowering disadvantaged individuals and contribute to the growth of the local economy by creating job opportunities for local communities particularly young people. Mr Mpya stated that, during his period in EPWP he was exposed to EPWP training which taught him how to capture data and manage reports.

“EPWP Training encouraged me to start my own business because I knew I wouldn't be there forever” said Mpya.

Mr. Mpya further participated in six months training that focused on charcoal production, bush thinning,

business management skills, financial literacy and feasibility study. His company, Bakgethwa Enterprise Pty Ltd employed twelve workers on a nine-month contract that ending 30 April 2025. “EPWP has played a vital role in my life by introducing me to the work environment it also taught me how to work with people.” Today, I manage my own business and am quite fulfilled stated Mpya.

The charcoal is sold to local businesses including Chisanyama's, filling stations and households respectively. He encouraged current EPWP participants to have determination and most importantly to work hard so that they can find their purpose at the end of the project. He also encouraged participants to ensure continuous learning which will increase their knowledge and better their lives.



## EPWP PARTICIPANTS ASISST COMMUNITY BY SAFETY PATROLLING FOR CRIMINAL ACTIVITES

Article and Pictures by: Oageng Mathenje

Department of Public Works and Infrastructure Mmabatho Regional Office - Expanded Public Works Programme unit in partnership with the Department of Community Safety and Transport Management and the North West South African Police Service have trained 60 EPWP participants as Patrol Security officer (Grade E) in order to prevent and fight crimes in their communities.

The participants are undergoing theoretical and practical development to equip them in crime prevention skills so that they can provide safety and security in various villages.

The participants are also conducting safety awareness in schools and within communities.

