



# The Department Public Works and Infrastructure has published a call for public comment on the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Policy

Article By Michael Mokoena

Pictures by Pelokazi Baliso, Lerato Mpiwa, and Sobathini Mahlasela



The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure has published a call for public comment on the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Policy gazetted on Friday, 16 September 2022. The Department called upon all communities to engage this Policy during the countrywide Public Consultation Sessions that are currently underway this month. The public consultation sessions started on Monday, 19 September 2022

and are led by the Deputy Director- General (DDG) of the EPWP, Ms. Carmen-Joy Abrahams. During these consultation sessions, the public – through their representative structures and in their individual capacity– are being afforded an opportunity to discuss and contribute to the EPWP Policy.

The development and gazette of the EPWP Policy follow years of extensive engagements by DPWI and various stakeholders who are participating in the implementation of the EPWP. Extensive research was also undertaken by the Department in the development of this policy.

The purpose of the EPWP Policy is to define the emerging problem statement of the EPWP in the South Africa of today, and to build from that basis the refocused Public Employment Programme (PEP) agenda of the government, with policy positions and programmes of action that are clearly defined, implementable and enforceable for government and empowering for the participant in EPWP in effectively addressing inequality, poverty, and unemployment.

The EPWP not only tackles poverty through the creation of short-to-medium term work opportunities for the poor and unemployed South Africans, but the Programme also offers the potential to build bridges to sustainable work while building valuable assets and delivering vital services for the respective communities and contributing to social cohesion and national development.



# EPWP continues to provide socio-economic relief through the creation of work opportunities for the poor and unemployed South Africans

Article by Lesego Moretlwe

Pictures by Lerato Mpiwa and Pelokazi Baliso



The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) is continuing to offer socio-economic relief to the poor, unskilled, and unemployed South Africans by providing them with work opportunities and income relief thus improving their lives for the better.

The EPWP is aimed at providing work and training opportunities to women, youth, and people with disabilities. The EPWP participants take part in various projects implemented by all spheres of government including State Owned Entities, Non-Profit Organisations, and Community Based Organisations.

Ms. Thapelo Mokhwane is an EPWP participant from Kagisano Molopo Local Municipality in the North West. She participated in the EPWP Environment and Culture waste project which started in 2021. Through the income that she receives from the EPWP, Mokhwane managed to enroll for a security course which she completed successfully and was awarded a Grade C security certificate. Currently, she is studying towards a certificate in education and looking forward to working at an Early Childhood Development centre and earning a better life after exiting the Programme.

In addition to that, Mr. Edwin Mashalane is one of many participants of the EPWP Artisan Development Programme which is currently underway. Mashalane is based in Mpumalanga for the theoretical and practical training in Diesel Mechanic. He is currently placed at Toyota Middleburg as a diesel mechanic trainee and he has expressed his gratitude and happiness with the skills and knowledge that he is acquiring from the programme.

Speaking about the training opportunities in the EPWP, The Director: Beneficiary Training in the EPWP, Ms. Cinderella Makunike indicated that the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) through its National Skills Fund (NSF) provided funding to the EPWP to train a total of 8 257 EPWP participants on the following: Skills Programmes (7 000), Learnerships (450), Artisan Development (357) and Capacity Building (450).

To date, through a partnership with Agriculture Sector Education Training Authority (AgriSETA), 367 EPWP participants are in training for Artisan Development on 18 different trades throughout the country as follows: Boilermaker, Chefs, Diesel Mechanic, Automotive Mechanic, Electrician, Hairdresser, Fitter and Turner, Refrigeration Mechanic, Rigger, Millwright, Bricklayer, Plumber, Instrumentation, Welder, Carpentry and Lift Mechanic.

EPWP participants throughout the country have received training on Skills Programmes such as Construction processes, plant production, early childhood development, security practices, and many more.

In addition, “there are 25 Health promotion officers participating in the EPWP learnership in the Free State. They are responsible for community work, assisting in clinics as caregivers, providing care for children, and giving non-medical health care support in various health centres in the Free State,” said Ms. Makunike.





# Deputy Minister Noxolo Kiviet visits Sebibeng as part of Presidential Pre-Imbizo Programme in Gauteng

Article by Lunga Mahlangu and Kgomotso Mathuloe

Pictures by Pelokazi Baliso



The Deputy Minister Public Works and Infrastructure, Ms. Noxolo Kiviet recently embarked on a Pre-Presidential Imbizo site visit in the Sedibeng district in the Vaal, area Gauteng. The site-visit formed part of the two-legged site visit to showcase progress in relation to the provision of accommodation to client departments as well as the provision of critical skills in support of revitalizing the economy.

The visit formed part of the department's mandate to resuscitate the country's infrastructure industry. She visited the following two sites: MCD skills centre in Meyerton where 13 Artisan Development Programme learners were placed for experiential learning. This was followed by the site inspection at Vereeniging Police station which has been undergoing a complete refurbishment since 2020 and the work is moving toward completion.

EPWP Artisan Development Programme is implemented in partnership with Agriculture Sector Education Training Authority (AgriSETA) and is aimed at training 367 EPWP in Artisan trades such as Boilermakers, Electricians, Plumbing, Diesel mechanic,

Rigger, instrumentation, Fitter and Turner, to name only a few. The Meyerton cohort of learners are part of 162 who were recruited in Gauteng for a three year apprenticeship programme. The learners were recruited from the EPWP projects across EPWP Sectors namely: Infrastructure, Social and Non State. This project is being implemented in four Metro and District Municipalities as follows: Tshwane, Ekurhuleni, Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipalities as well as Sedibeng District Municipality.

The learners placed in MCD Training Centre are exposed to the following skills: Electrical Engineering, Welder, Fitter and Turner and 10 out of 13 learners are females. Conducting an interview with the Community media in Sedibeng, Deputy Kiviet stated that government is committed to contributing towards capacitating young people and resuscitation of the infrastructure industry. She reiterated that the department through the EPWP should use the exit strategy to help young people develop and establish their own businesses. She further stated that young people should use these expertise to serve their immediate communities.



# uMgungundlovu District Municipality Responds to Call for Sustainable Livelihoods

By Sduduzo Simelane

Pictures by Nokuzola Luthuli



The uMgungundlovu District Municipality in KwaZulu-Natal has positively responded to a call from the Provincial Steering Committee (PSC) to implement strategies to enable Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants to exit onto long-term livelihoods. The PSC made this call at its quarterly meeting, which all district municipalities (DMs) are part of, on 10 December 2021 encouraging implementing bodies to report instances of permanent employment of participants as a way of sharing information, tactics, and strategies.

The uMgungundlovu District Municipality which encompasses the city of Pietermaritzburg and the towns of Richmond, Mooi River, Impendle, uMkhambathini, and uMshwathi sought to use its cleaning and fire services to target EPWP participants for sustainable livelihoods.

According to the EPWP Champion at the District Municipality, Ms. Nokuzola Luthuli, this initiative began with the outbreak of COVID-19 in 2020. The Municipality allowed and encouraged the older members of the cleaning staff to stay at home which created a need for substitute workers. The EPWP unit was then asked to source EPWP workers to provide the services on 12-month contracts. Meantime, the Municipality was giving the older permanent staff an option to go on early retirement which, in addition to the existing ones, created vacancies. These vacancies were internally advertised and nine of the substitute EPWP workers got to be employed by the Municipality. A second group of five EPWP workers were recruited during the 2021/2022 financial year and were absorbed in July 2022.

As far as the fire services were concerned, the Municipality observed that there was too much over-time work among the existing permanent staff. The EPWP unit was then engaged to

recruit 19 participants to augment the fire services staff. Starting with EPWP contracts for 3 months (January to March 2022) these workers' stipend was later removed from EPWP and paid through the municipal remuneration system with the workers finally being permanently absorbed in July 2022.

In recruiting and permanently absorbing the EPWP workers, the uMgungundlovu District Municipality has attempted to adhere to the demographical targets of women, youth, and people living with disability. There are currently 9 women, and 24 youth. They all receive a basic monthly salary of R8602.00, a huge upgrade on the R2040 EPWP wage they started on. In addition, they qualify for municipal fringe benefits which include provident fund, medical aid, and pension fund.

Advising fellow EPWP Champions in other municipalities on how to replicate what her municipality had done, Ms. Luthuli said: "Communication with the Municipal Management is very important as we saw the gaps within the Municipality and advised on taking the EPWP participants since they were already on the system and they were working hard". It will also assist uMgungundlovu on our reporting and performance with Department for Public Works and Infrastructure.

## Participants' Testimonials

Nomusa Mchunu is one of the participants of the uMgungundlovu District Municipality's decision to afford some EPWP workers a measure of sustainable livelihood. She explained that, aside from the fact that she has been able to purchase a refrigerator in cash, "I now feel a sense of dignity when finances are discussed among my family members". Her sentiment was echoed by a younger and exuberant Simangele Nkomo who has also bought herself a fridge and, as a young person, "I am able to do my hair and go out after meeting my monthly bills". Both Mchunu and Nkomo were absorbed in the cleaning services.

Nelisiwe Dlomo and Jeremiah Govender were resplendent in their neatly pressed blue fire services uniforms. Dlomo had no parents growing up and was raised by her brother. She has her own child and a grandchild. She said that as soon as she was able to receive an improved salary, she offered to be responsible for groceries within her household. She is also able to save R500.00 every month.

Engagement with participants showed that saving and building up assets feature prominently in their priorities. Govender who is 30 years of age, for example, indicated that he had been saving up and he now owned a car.

But the last word went to Simangele Nkomo who, in her ebullient manner, said 'we thank the EPWP for having employed us in the first place. People sometimes look down on this programme but this is where it has put us'.



# EPWP officials complete SIYB Master Trainer training

By Michael Mokoena  
Pictures by Michael Mokoena



She explained that such training was important as it assisted the government to strengthen pathways to sustainable livelihoods for participants who are exiting the EPWP.

The five DPWI officials who attended the training included:

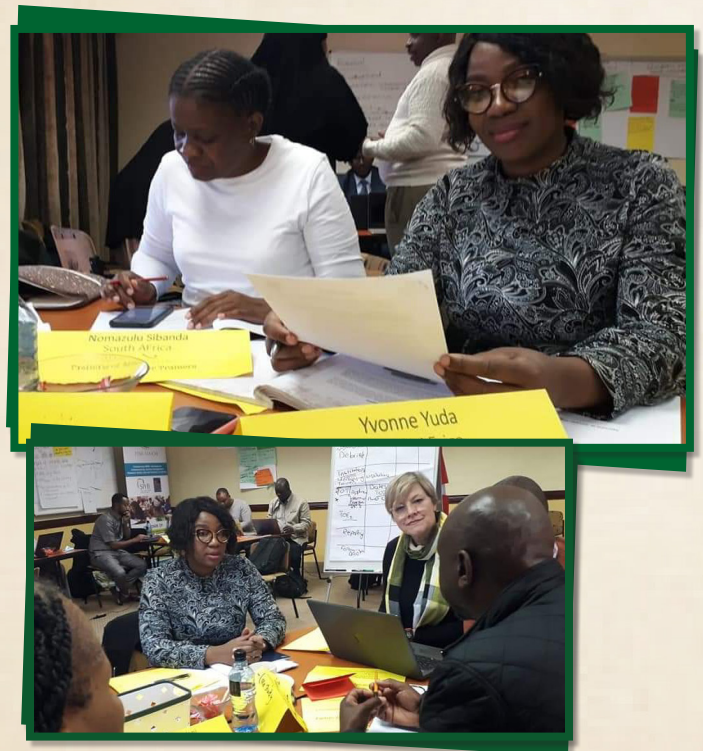
- Dr. Nomazulu Sibanda (Deputy Director: EPWP Enterprise Development Northern Cape),
- Ms. Yvonne Yuda Deputy (Director: EPWP Enterprise Development -Head Office), Ms. Victoria Mphahlele (Deputy Director: (EPWP Enterprise Development Limpopo)
- Mr. Selaoewe Kabelo (Deputy Director: EPWP Enterprise Development Free State).

During this two-week training, the DPWI officials were joined by other trainees from various organisations based in countries such as Zimbabwe, Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia.

A two-week training of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) officials on Start Improve Your Business (SIYB) Master Trainer recently took place at Benvenuto Conference Centre in Johannesburg. The training will assist the officials to train and provide exit strategies for the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants.

The Deputy Director: EPWP Vuk'uphile Contractor Development Programme, Mr. Osborne Neluvhalani explained that: "The SIYB Master Trainer programme qualifies us to train officials and EPWP implementing bodies on SIYB so that they (officials and implementing bodies) can cascade the training to exiting participants. In essence, this training will assist us to expand the training of exiting EPWP participants."

Delivering closing remarks about the training, the Deputy Director General (DDG) of EPWP in DPWI, Ms. Carmen-Joy Abrahams commended all officials for attending the training.





# Community Health Promoters in FS

Article by Lerato Mpiwa and Michael Mokoena

Pictures by Lerato Mpiwa



The Bloemfontein Regional Office of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) recently visited learners who are being trained through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) as Health Promotion Officers (HPO) in Harrismith in the Free State. The 25 learners are placed at 4 clinics in the Harrismith vicinity for practical training.

The Department's visit to the 4 clinics was led by the Director for EPWP Training, Ms. Cinderella Makunike, and the Manager for EPWP Training in the Free State, Ms. Rose Dichakane.

"The purpose for visiting these participants today is to monitor the progress of the programme. The training has both theory and workplace components. The workplace training allows participants do to the actual community health promotion work which includes providing non-medical support to the health facilities where they are placed. As DPWI, we are pleased with the work done by our participants at the four clinics that we have visited," Makunike said.

Providing a brief background of EPWP Health Promotion Officer Training, Ms Makunike said that DPWI received funding from the Department of Higher Education and Trainings' National Skills Fund (NSF) to train these participants. "The funding we received from NSF is to train participants on various programmes. For instance, we have to train about 7000 participants on skills programmes, 400 on learnerships programme while 357 are trained in Artisan Development programme," Makunike said.

Dichakane explained that some of the activities the learners are executing at the respective clinics include providing non-medical community healthcare services such as community health talks on topics such as HIV/Aids; providing community caregiving services to the elderly and the sick; assisting with the management of queues at the clinics; assisting with basic administration and providing other community services.

The Director for Kgetho Training and consulting – a training provider for the EPWP Health Promotion Officer Training project - Ms. Martha Mosiane was also part of the officials who visited the learners. "The learnership started in September 2021 and is scheduled to complete in October 2022 with the learners writing the External Integrated Summative Assessment (EISA) Examination which will be Quality Assured by Health and Welfare Sector Education and Training Authority (HWSETA)," Mosiane said.

## Participants' Testimonials

Ms. Lindiwe Mazibuko, a participant in this learnership programme, thanked EPWP for granting them an opportunity to be part of the Programme. "We have learned a lot from the programme and we believe that the skills we have acquired will make it easier for us to find work within the health sector," she said.

She also encouraged young people, especially women in her community, to use opportunities provided by the EPWP to lift themselves out of poverty.





# JB Marks Local Municipality in the North West creates opportunities for People with disabilities

Article by Xoliswa Letsapa

Pictures by Alatia Njamani



The Green Blossom project is implemented by JB Marks Local Municipality in the North West in collaboration with the City of Växjö under the auspices of the Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy. The project started in July 2020 with a group of 12 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants. It was initiated from previous two successful projects (School Drop-out and Labour Market training) which were implemented through a partnership with the City of Växjö.

The project is focused on providing skills training and theoretical education to unemployed people (socially challenged groups) with severe difficulties to get jobs.

JB Marks Local Municipality was assisted by the North West Department of Social Development to identify participants from Tshwaraganang Disability Centre and De Wilge Special School to participate in the programme. Consultations with the respective participant's families were done to get consent.

The project is designed for young people who had completed their studies from the Special Schools to give them life opportunities. Upon designing the project, nine pillars of the White Paper on disability were considered as follows: are:

- Removing barriers to access and participation;
- Protecting the rights of persons at risk of compounded marginalisation;
- Supporting sustainable integrated community life;
- Promoting and supporting the empowerment of women, children, youth, and persons with disabilities;

- Reducing economic vulnerability and releasing human capital;
- Strengthening the representative voice of people with disabilities;
- Building a disability equitable state machinery;
- Promoting international cooperation and
- Monitoring and evaluation.

Accordingly, as these young people reach the age of 19 or 20 years, they are automatically removed from the Special Schools and this leaves them vulnerable and exposed to a lot of uncertainty. This is when the municipality saw an opportunity to step in and give them a chance at being economically active. The municipality's intention is to finally assist this group to register as a cooperative that can produce compost and other nursery products. Should this initiative succeed, it will give this group an opportunity to sustain themselves and to further create jobs within their community given the level of unemployment within the JB Marks Local Municipality.

The outcome and impact of the project is aimed at ensuring that young people with disability are given an opportunity to participate actively in the economy and to contribute as citizens. The projects further aim to strengthen public capacity in the social welfare field by establishing a new public model of skills training and empowerment of vulnerable social groups without jobs, resources, and security.

In May 2022, the JB Marks Local Municipality hosted delegates from Zimbabwe who were keen on implementing the project and copy good practice.



# Nelspruit DPWI Regional Office visits companies that are training EPWP diesel mechanic artisans in Mpumalanga

Article by Sobatini Mahlasela and Michael Mokoena

Pictures Sobatini Mahlasela

The Nelspruit Regional Office of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) recently conducted visits to Mpumalanga companies that are training Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) diesel mechanic artisans.

These learners are part of the 40 participants who are being trained to be artisans through the EPWP-AgriSETA Artisan Development Programme in the province. Ms Fela Mashaba DPWI Manager responsible for EPWP Training in the province, explained that the visit to the respective workplaces in Middleburg and Witbank was part of the work of monitoring the progress of the Programme.

“We visited workplaces that are providing diesel mechanic artisan training to our learners. These visits are aimed at monitoring the work done by participants in the workplaces where they are placed as well as understanding how the learners are coping



with the work environment. Having visited these workplaces, we are pleased with the progress of the training as the learners are receiving valuable skills, extensive knowledge, and experience in the Diesel Mechanic field,” Mashaba explained.

She pointed out that once ready, the learners will undergo trade testing in order to qualify as Diesel Mechanics. “Once they have completed trade testing, the learners will be awarded the Red Seal certificates from the Quality Council for Trades and Occupation (QCTO). These Artisan Certificates will enable our EPWP learners to secure employment in private sector companies or even in various government entities. The learners can also start their own businesses or continue with education in their chosen careers,” Mashaba said.

She commended all companies that are working with the Department for ensuring the successful implementation of the Programme. “We thank each company for opening their workplaces for the training of our EPWP artisans in the province,” Mashaba added.

The companies that were visited include:

- Toyota in Middleburg
- Magnum Metals in Middleburg
- AfriCoal SA in Witbank
- Volkswagen SA in Witbank
- Isuzu Middleburg

Mashaba added that DPWI will provide the learners with additional training on mental fitness from National Youth Development Agency; Financial literacy training; Training on how to “Generate your Business idea and Start your business” etc. “These skills will enable the learners to exit into the work world with competitive skills,” she added.

During the visit to Toyota Middleburg, the company’s Gugu Nkosi praised the conduct of the EPWP learners who are placed at the company. “The learners are learning a lot from the work that we do in the workshop. Part of the work that they have learned at this point includes maintenance and servicing of vehicles. They have shown commitment and eagerness to learn. As a company, we are happy to be part of this training programme,” Ms. Nkosi said.

Mr. Derick Reeder – a mentor to the EPWP learners at Toyota Middleburg – commended the EPWP learners for displaying commitment to the work they are tasked to do on-site.

## Participants’ Testimonials

Mr. Sandile Ncongwane – an EPWP diesel mechanic learner placed at Toyota Middleburg – believes that the training will assist him to one day open his own workshop and assist in creating work opportunities in his community. “I thank the government for an opportunity to participate in the EPWP Artisan Programme. The skills I have learned will not only help me to create a better life for myself but will also benefit my community as I plan to one day open my own workshop and create work opportunities for unemployed youths in my community,” he said.

Mr. Edwin Mashalane, who is also a participant in this programme, opined that the training will assist him to find permanent work upon exiting the EPWP. “With the skills that I have learned from this programme, finding work in the formal sector will be a bit easier”.



# Bloemfontein Regional office hosts NYS exit Workshop in Kroonstad

Article by Brain Dlamini and Pelokazi Baliso  
Pictures by Pelokazi Baliso



The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) through National Youth Service (NYS) has completed the refurbishment of the Department of Defence School of Engineering Base in Kroonstad, Free State. The NYS form part of the EPWP Infrastructure programme that is aimed at providing artisan skills to young people. During the refurbishment period, the DPWI appointed 120 young people (NYS participants) in four (4) phases (30 people per intake) to be trained in the following trades electrical, plumbing, and tiling.

After the completion of the abovementioned project, DPWI hosted an existed workshop for the EPWP participants. The ceremony that was recently held in Kroonstad ant it aimed to present different opportunities which the participants may explore to enter the labour market or become entrepreneurs. The ceremony - was officiated by the Director of NYS in the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) Ms. Lefentse Ratsela and the EPWP Unit from Bloemfontein DPWI's Regional Office. Ms. Ratsela wished the participants to do well in their future, and be able to start their own businesses.

The Deputy Director for EPWP NYS, Ms. Karabo Malebese, congratulated the participants for having successfully completed their training. As the participants exit the Programme, DPWI gave them toolboxes which would become useful when they get employed or even when they set up their small businesses.

## Participants' Testimonials

Upon exiting the NYS Programme, Mr. Sello Jonny Chaba and Ms. Priscilla Mothupi from Forth Stone Construction Pty Ltd, are now co-owners of a construction Company. These young people have thanked DPWI and EPWP for the opportunity as they gained technical skills such as Bricklaying, Plastering, Plumbing, Welding, and painting.





# EPWP Social Sector in Free State Contribute to Strengthening of National School Nutrition Programme through the appointment of Assistant Coordinators in Schools

Article by Masego Maselwanyane

Pictures by Masego Maselwanyane



The National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) is one of the programmes reported under the EPWP Social Sector by the Department of Basic Education. The Programme aims to improve the health and nutritional status of the poorest learners in South Africa. Its main objective is to enhance learning by providing a nutritious meal regularly and on a daily basis. The impact of the programme has shown to improve learners' punctuality, regular school attendance, concentration, and the general wellbeing of participating learners.

NSNP is implemented through the appointment of Food Handlers in various schools in the Free State. Through the EPWP Social Sector Incentive Grant, the Free State was able to appoint 120 Assistant Programme Coordinators in various schools. These assistants provide supervision to the Food Handlers in the school.

Thabang Primary School is one of the schools that benefited from the appointment of the Assistant Coordinator is responsible for supervising Food Handlers, controlling stock – reconciling and receiving stock, compiling monthly reports, managing attendance of Food Handlers, managing the feeding of learners and ensuring that all NSNP records are up-to-date and are properly kept. She also ensures that food shortages are minimised, the kitchen is kept clean at all times, food preparation is neat, Food Handlers are neat and wearing proper uniform and also managers food orders and suppliers. According to the school principal, Ms. Sejake, the appointment of the Assistant Coordinator has made a huge difference in the implementation of the NSNP in the school. The Assistant NSNP Coordinator is earning a stipend of R3000 per month while the school has a total of Six Food Handlers earning a stipend of R1640.

In addition to the NSNP initiative, schools are also encouraged to establish food gardens from which they obtain fresh produce (vegetables/fruit) to supplement the menu in line with South African Food Based Dietary Guidelines. Learners, teachers & parents are provided with skills to grow their own food contributing towards long-term household food security. The gardens are also used as a teaching and learning resource and to beautify the environment. Thabang Primary School has an established garden which is maintained by the EPWP participants, learners and parents are also actively involved in the school.

Thabang Primary School was voted one of the best NSNP schools in Free State and received EPWP award in 2021. The school received a Kitchen price worth R700 000 which is currently being constructed within the school premises. The EPWP Social Sector contribution to the programme has made a great deal of difference in strengthening the implementation of the NSNP in the school.



# DPWI's Mafikeng Regional Office hosts weeklong FSCA training for EPWP participants

Article by Lerato Mpiwa and Michael Mokoena

Pictures by Lerato Mpiwa



The Mafikeng Regional Office of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure in the North West Province has in August 2022 hosted a week-long financial literacy training for EPWP participants who are working under the Youth in Waste projects at various municipalities in the province. The training (Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA) training) was led by the North West EPWP Training Manager, Mr. Jimmy Mbokota, and was hosted at various towns in the province – namely Mafikeng, Vryburg, Klerksdorp, and Rustenburg.

Participants who attended this training are placed at various municipalities in the province through an EPWP Youth in Waste project that is implemented by the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA).

The EPWP Champion in (Cogta), Ms. Kediheng Kopele, explained that more than 80 participants from all four districts were going to receive the training.

“These participants are part of the 170 young people who are working as waste collectors at various municipalities in the Province. They joined the EPWP on 01 May 2022 and will exit the programme on 28 February 2023. With this training we want them to understand how to use their stipend wisely,” Kopele explained.

The Mafikeng training was attended by participants who are placed at municipalities within the Ngaka Modiri Molema District. Mr Mbokota explained that the training was aimed at providing participants with advice on how to use their monthly stipend wisely. “The training provides our participants with a broad understanding on how to manage their money. We will share with them information about the FSCA and how it can assist them. We will also cover financial issues such as how to draw a budget...how to differentiate between needs and wants...how to save and tips on money-related matters,” Mbokota explained.

Participants also received a presentation from the Assistant Director responsible for Training in the regional office - Mr. Samuel Nhlapo – who advised them on how they can use their wages to start small businesses.

“You do not need a lot of money to start a business... you can start small...for instance identify things you can buy and sell to the community to supplement your wages. You can also take a small portion from your stipend and invest in the future of your children,” Nhlapo added.

The week-long programme concluded with the training of participants from Bojanala District in Rustenburg.

## Participants' Testimonials

Ms. Thapelo Mokhwaie – a participant from Kagisano Molopo Local Municipality – said that the training has given her ideas on how to invest her money. “I have already implemented some of the advice we received from this training. For instance, I have used part of my stipend to pay for a short security course that I completed last year. At the start of this year, I used part of my stipend to register for a short course in education. The plan is to use part of my stipend to fund my education with the hope to one day get a better job,” she said.

Another participant – Ms. Irene Motswasele from Ratlou Local Municipality – said that the training has given her a better understanding of how to use money. “The training has also taught me the importance of saving money”.





# DPWI hosts financial literacy training for community health workers in Emalahleni in Mpumalanga

Article by Fela Mashaba

Pictures by Fela Mashaba and Lesley Nthangeni



The FSCA-Financial Literacy Training offered by the Nelspruit Regional office covered the following modules:

- Managing money better
- Budgeting- What is a Budget? Importance of budgeting, How to draw up a Budget,
- Saving:- Definition of saving, Why Save?, Different ways to save, Savings versus Investments,
- Distinguishing between Needs and Wants
- Managing debt
- Short-term & long term insurance

The participants were extremely happy that they could receive this training as they believe that it will change the way they manage their finances going forward and that this is the lifetime knowledge that they would also be able to extend to their families and community members. This training will assist them to set up a plan to manage their debts better.

One of the participants, Mr. Sibongiseni Mjoli, said this training has exposed him to better ways of Saving the little money he is receiving from EPWP, and that it will assist him budget better onwards. He further pledged to share the information and knowledge received with those around him.

The Nelspruit Regional Office conducted Financial Literacy Training on 18 July 2022 for 39 Community Health workers under Poly and Lynville Clinics at Emalahleni. These projects are implemented by the Mpumalanga Department of Health under a unit called Community Health Services. The EPWP Recruitment Guidelines were followed when recruiting these participants. Participants were recruited from the 4 wards under the EMalahleni Local municipality. According to Mr. Tebang Modisang, the Health Community Officer in the department, single-parent households and women were given preference during the process.

These projects provide healthcare services to the Emalahleni community, and below are their main activities:

- Community households visits and profiling
- Provide Home Base Care to the communities
- Conduct health promotion and awareness of children immunisation in the communities
- Providing health care support to the sick & elderly people
- Give treatment to patients and remind the sick of their clinic appointments
- Assisting households to acquire their birth certificates and ID books from Dept. of Home Affairs





# A total of 250 households from villages around Libode in the Eastern Cape stand to benefit from the road construction through EPWP labour-intensive construction methods

Article by Michael Mokoena and Lerato Mpiwa  
Pictures by Lerato Mpiwa



A total of 250 households from villages around Libode in the Eastern Cape stand to benefit from the road infrastructure project that is currently being delivered by the Nyandeni Local Municipality through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) labour-intensive construction methods. The 5.1 kilometer Access roads that are being constructed in the area will bring socio-economic opportunities to the villages of Mdima, Mcwili, and Mbobeleni.

He added that the municipality would continue to use the EPWP to deliver public assets and services as well as alleviate poverty through the creation of work opportunities for the poor and unemployed members of the community.

These participants have also received training in road construction from the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI).



“During training, participants were exposed to theoretical work with several unit standards including Health and Safety, Establishing and preparing the work area, and Investigating life and work-related problems using data and probabilities. They were then deployed to the site where they are putting what they studied into practice,” said the DPWI’s EPWP Training Coordinator in the Province, Mr. Sanelisiwe Funani.

The manager at the site, Ms. Celiwe Zulu commended the participants for their commitment to the success of the project.

## Participants’ Testimonials

The municipality has appointed 19 EPWP participants to assist in the construction of these access roads. The Manager responsible for this Project at the municipality, Mr. Mpendulo Mgudlwa explained that the project has alleviated poverty by creating work opportunities for the unemployed community members.

The participants thanked the government for appointing them to the EPWP project. Ms. Nompandolo Cekwana explained that being part of the programme has given them hope. “We have gained skills that we can use to make a living for ourselves,” she said.

“Upon completion, this project will not only bring about socio-economic opportunities to the community but will also bring our people together and provide the community members with easy access to government services such as health care and social services,” Mgudlwa said.

Ms. Anitha Nobhe - also a participant in the project - said that they are proud of being part of a project that brings development to the community.