



public works
& infrastructure

Department:
Public Works and Infrastructure
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME

SEPTEMBER 2024 EDITION

Minister Dean Macpherson pledges to improve service delivery by allocating 20 EPWP participants to Langa Police Station

Article by Brian Dlamini

Pictures by Brian Dlamini and Maanea Maselesele



The 18th of July is marked as International Mandela Day where the global citizens celebrate and honour the life and legacy of the late and former South African President, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela by donating 67 minutes of their time to community work. This year, (18 July 2024) the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure Honourable Dean Macpherson embarked on the painting of Langa Police Station as part of the integral part of maintenance of government buildings by the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI).

Addressing the officials and members of the media outside Langa Police Station in Cape Town on 18 July 2024 (Mandela Day), Minister Macpherson said "I am here with the entire team of the DPWI in Langa donating 67 minutes of our time to our nation police officers who work every-day to protect us and look after us. The least we can do is to get back to them, so we have been painting the boardroom that they work in to make it look nicer and improve their working conditions, said the Minister".

In an effort to improve service delivery, Minister Macpherson has also noted some work that still needs to be done beyond Mandela day. The Minister made a commitment to allocate EPWP participants to Langa Police station for the period of 2 years where they will be assisting with the maintenance of the facility which will provide them with work and skills development opportunities.

"There are some things that we need to fix... I am going to make sure that we allocate 20 new people from the EPWP to work here for the next 2 years so that they can help rebuild, fix the station and clean it up, and we will make sure that they gain skills" Minister concluded. The 2024 Nelson Mandela International day was celebrated under the theme: "it's still in our hands to combat poverty and inequity". The Minister was accompanied by Deputy Director General of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Mr Ntokozo Chonco together with other senior officials of the DPWI.

Following the commitment to recruit community members to work under EPWP, the Cape Town Regional office was able to recruit 52 EPWP Participants for Langa and Khayelitsha.



EPWP phase V prioritises impactful jobs and sustainable skills or business enterprises

Article by: Maanea Maselesele and Tumelo Sekwele

Pictures by Oageng Mathenje



President Cyril Ramaphosa hosted the District Development Model (DDM) Presidential Imbizo on 23 August 2024 at Tsakane stadium, East Rand in Gauteng. This was the first Presidential Imbizo of the 7th Democratic Administration which brought together community members of Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality and discussed issues of service delivery. In attendance were Government of National Unity Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Government officials who provided feedback to community members regarding service delivery issues.

In his response to questions on job creation raised by the community members, The Deputy Minister of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, Mr Sihle Zikalala said "In the EPWP Phase V we want to create job that are impactful to service delivery and also create sustainable skills or business enterprises for people". Deputy Minister Zikalala also addressed the issue of empowering women in the construction sector. "We want to ensure that women are part of the construction industry," he stated.

Deputy Minister Zikalala has further indicated that the EPWP Phase V will focus amongst others on the following key areas:

- Waste management
- Pothole patching and
- Brick paving

Through the District Development Model (DDM) Imbizo, President Cyril Ramaphosa was set to assess the progress made on commitments the government undertook in Gauteng

Province. The DDM is tailored to ensure an integrated approach towards service delivery among all spheres of government.

The DPWI has also participated in the presidential exhibition and shared service delivery information about the department's Professional Services, EPWP opportunities as well as services of other branches within the department.

As a build-up towards the Presidential Imbizo, the Deputy Minister of Department of Public works and infrastructure (DPWI) Honourable Sihle Zikalala held a Pre-Presidential imbizo in Ekurhuleni, Gauteng where he visited two Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) projects implemented by Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality. This was an oversight visit to monitor and evaluate progress made, mitigate challenges and provide interventions to accelerate service delivery which include creating work opportunities for the local people as well as and maintenance of public assets.

During his visit, Deputy Minister Zikalala participated in the labour intensive work such as patching of Potholes and road marking in Vosloorus, Phumula township. Subsequent to that, he also visited the Wetland Project in Leeupan at Benoni which deals with clearing alien invasive plants covering the surface of water at Benoni Lake, removal of litter and debris from water courses.

The Deputy Minister emphasised that Phase 5 of Expanded Public Works (EPWP) is different from previous phases, mainly because the department is focused on the participant's exit strategy by ensuring that the Programme offers them training and skills development programmes as well as providing enterprise development support to enhance their entrepreneurship skills and the basis to cooperatives. These projects have cumulatively created over 350 work opportunities for the local communities.

One of the EPWP Beneficiaries at the Wetland project in Benoni Lake, Mrs. Regina Dlamini from Daveyton joined EPWP in May 2024, she expressed her gratitude because she is now able to provide for her family. Mrs. Dlamini job at the Wetland project entails removing hyacinth alien plants from the dam so that fish and crabs can live and breathe properly. The hyacinth is also used to manufacture different products such as baskets and coal for commercial purposes.



Expanded Public Works Programme Phase V well under way towards creating 5 million work opportunities by 2029

Article by: Lesego Moretlwe

Pictures by: EPWP PR & Communication



The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) is steadily contributing to the socio-economic relief of the unemployed South Africans by providing training and work opportunities, which results in an income support and alleviation of poverty in many South African households.

“Quarter 1 report of the first year of EPWP Phase V implementation has revealed that the Programme created 671 training opportunities and a total of 341 331 work opportunities against the set target of over 1 million work opportunities for the current financial year. This figures are an indication that all hands are on deck towards creating 5 million EPWP work opportunities by 2029,” explained Deputy Director General (DDG) of the EPWP, Mr Ntokozo Nchonco. DDG Nchonco further indicated that the Programme is continuously pursuing methods to enhance its efficiency and effectiveness towards service delivery hence, one of the focus areas is to provide clear exit strategies for the EPWP participants and enhance their future employment prospects. These work opportunities were created by EPWP implementing bodies across all the sectors, namely;

Infrastructure, Environment and Culture, Non –State and Social sectors.

The biggest contributors of work opportunities per province during the period under review were Kwa-Zulu Natal at 31%, Eastern Cape 18% and Gauteng by 14% while significant number of training opportunities per provinces were contributed by Western Cape at 45% Kwa Zulu Natal 20% and Mpumalanga contributed 11%.

Phase V of the Programme aims to provide the unemployed South Africans with meaningful work opportunities through the delivery of community assets and services, and actively build economic inclusion mechanisms that empower sustainable livelihoods and contribute towards the country’s development.

Within the next five years, the Programme will among others, implement impactful projects that include road upgrading through pothole patching, cleaning and waste management, blocking paving, and clean energy.

Another Successful EPWP project showcase its impact in the society

Article and pictures by Oageng Mathenje



My Art My Village! This is the brainchild of Mr Mandla Hlophe, who is now an entrepreneur post his participation in the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) skills development initiative led by the Environment and Culture Sector in Mpumalanga. Mr Hlophe's successful venture into business has seen this organisation, participating at the annual Mpumalanga Show which was held at Mbombela Stadium in Nelspruit on 05-06 September 2024.

My Art My Village Organisation is another successful EPWP initiative which brought together crafters around Mpumalanga to showcase the impact of the Programme in the livelihoods of ordinary citizens. Mr Hlophe coordinated and assisted various crafters on product development, business development, and marketing strategies. The Organisation focuses on creative arts such as, beadwork, woodcarving, mosaic, and sewing.

In the 2023/2024 financial year, the organisation trained 50 crafters around Mpumalanga on basic business skills such as networking and financial management, project management and introduced their products to different markets. In this current financial year (2024/2025) the organisation is planning to train 90 crafters on their business needs around Ehlanzeni district.

Mr Hlophe expressed his gratitude to the EPWP and relevant institutions that contributed to his success in the business industry. "I would like to thank the Expanded Public Works Programme together with its stakeholders that include Mpumalanga Department of Sports, Arts and Culture, and Small Enterprise and Development Agency (SEDA), on aiding me in attaining necessary skills. These skills have enabled me to start my own organisation and I am now assisting local crafters to produce their own products and showcasing it to various markets," Mr Hlophe said.



Expanded Public Works Programme make strides in uplifting women livelihoods

Article by: Lesego Moretlwe

Pictures by: EPWP PR & Communication



The Expanded Public Works (EPWP) Phase 5 is steadfast and committed to its mandate of accelerating service delivery and empowering the communities as well as addressing the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment, and inequality. To bring effect to this commitment, various EPWP implementing bodies are creating socio-economic opportunities and clear exit strategies such as training and skills development programmes to empower the vulnerable groups, which includes women.

Among many women who benefitted from the EPWP is Ms Pearl Mabogoane who exited the Programme into a clear career path to establish a small business after participating in the EPWP Artisan Development Programme in Gauteng. Ms Mabokgwane graduated from the Artisan Development Programme programme in May 2024 after she successfully completed a 3-year training in Fitting and Turning trade and acquired competency certificate. In sharing her experience in the Programme she said "To all the women out there, I just want to say do not limit yourself on what you can do, I was able to do this trade that is male dominated but I persevered and I got the results that I got

today. There are challenges, but every industry, every career has challenges...we should stop being afraid to take those risks...you can do whatever you think you can do if you put your mind to it. Mabogoane's aim is to get projects for the smooth running of her company and empower young people through employment.

The EPWP Artisan Development Programme training seeks to provide skills for participants to enter work based training by acquiring knowledge and skills in a trade, thereby addressing the dilemma of critical skills shortage in the country and promote economic growth.

Another EPWP participant is Ms Regina Dlamini who hails from Daveyton, Gauteng and is currently working at a Wetlands project in Benoni Lake. Ms Dlamini has indicated that she was happy to be part of the project because she utilises the income that she receives to provide for her family. This project is about removing and clearing the hyacinth alien invasive plants covering the water surface of Benoni Lake and improve water life as well as tourism in the area.

EPWP Vukuphile contractors embark on a journey of becoming fully-fledged contractors.

Article and pictures by Maanea Maselesele



The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality (BCMM) has collaborated in empowering emerging contractors to become fully flagged contractors. A total number of 10 contractors were recruited under EPWP Vukuphile Contractor development Programme and were placed in different regions within BCMM for practical training. The contractors started with their theoretical training in January 2024 and will continue with practical training throughout the term.

The EPWP Vuk'huphile Learnership programme deemed it fit that the contractors must receive the Improve Your Business (IYB) training in the beginning of the 3 years contract. The objective of IYB training is to improve the business management skills of existing entrepreneurs and enable micro and small-sized entrepreneurs to set up some basic business management systems. The five days training was successfully conducted in East London.

According to Mr Dumisani Chauke, The EPWP Enterprise development Manager, the training intended to enhance contractors capacity by developing their competencies to improve their market competitiveness and sustainability including providing an ongoing support and training tailored to the needs of their enterprises.

"The enhancement was undertaken by facilitating one of the three components of a business management programme called IYB, which provides knowledge and skills to enhance entrepreneurial capabilities". said Chauke on his closing remarks.

The Vuk'uphile Contractor Development Programme is intended to develop emerging contractors into fully –fledged contractors able to execute labour-intensive project and conventional methods of construction. The emphasis of the programme is to develop administrative, technical, contractual, managerial and entrepreneurial skills of the emerging contractors.

Through Vuk'uphile, the contractors gain the necessary skills and knowledge to bid for and execute labour-intensive projects, contributing to the country's economic growth and sustainable development.

Speaking on behalf of trainees, Ms Luyuyo Bengu from Zaliding Trading thanked the training coordinators for the informative session. "We have learnt a lot in the past five days and we will definitely go back and implement the skills and knowledge we acquired during this training", Ms Bengu said. The training was facilitated by accredited trainers, amongst others Mr Osborne Neluvhalani from EPWP Vuk'uphile Learnership Programme and Ms Khanyisile Sokhulu from EPWP: Enterprise Development in the Eastern Cape region.



Harnessing Collective Wisdom: Elevating Knowledge Management in Public Service

Article by: Andiswa Qiqimana and Tumelo Sekwele

Pictures by: EPWP PR & Communication



On September 19, 2024, the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Branch, supported by the Governance, Risk and Compliance (GRC) Branch, hosted an impactful Community of Practice (CoP) Webinar themed “Smart Solutions: Harnessing Knowledge.” Different panelists from both national and provincial government attended the Webinar. The purpose of the session was to provide advantages for collective Knowledge Management approach in strengthening the department’s institutional memory.

In his opening remarks, the EPWP Deputy Director General, Mr Ntokozo Chonco expressed his support in advancing the function of Knowledge Management in the branch and encouraged all the panellists and attendees of the webinar to work together in finding ways to maximise the role of this function. “Let us seize the opportunity to collaborate, learn and innovate”. Said Mr.Chonco.

This gathering highlighted the urgent need for an inclusive and integrated knowledge management framework, essential for enhancing both the EPWP and the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI). With the participation of 233 officials across various levels—including DPWI units, national and provincial departments, municipalities, and state-owned entities—the CoP fostered collaboration and idea exchange on key topics related to knowledge management.

Harnessing Collective Wisdom

Mr. Kholane Chauke, a knowledge management specialist from the Industrial Development Corporation of South Africa, set the stage by emphasizing the critical role of knowledge management

as a business support function. He outlined strategies for mapping the knowledge management value chain to refine decision-making processes. Mr. Chauke stressed the importance of aligning organizational priorities with actionable steps and enhancing leadership effectiveness. His insights on creating a living knowledge management framework and implementing effective knowledge retention strategies will guide the DPWI as it reviews its own knowledge management strategy.

Effective Knowledge Capture

In the second segment, Mr. Makwena Molala from the National School of Government discussed the essential techniques for documenting expertise. He introduced practical methods such as back-to-office reports, exit interviews, and seminars, emphasizing their alignment with data protection laws. Mr. Molala also acknowledged the challenges in knowledge sharing, underscoring the need for robust stakeholder engagement. He proposed exciting opportunities for integrating knowledge harvesting with records management and ICT processes to boost knowledge retention and dissemination.

Knowledge Management Metrics

Ms. Vuyokazi Jezile from the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA), delivered a compelling presentation on “Knowledge Management Metrics: Measuring Success and Impact.” She highlighted the legislative framework provided by the DPSA and introduced the Knowledge Management Maturity Metrics designed for public service implementation.

Ms. Jezile detailed how specific indicators can assess the maturity of knowledge management practices, identify challenges, and propose actionable remedies. Her findings indicated that most departments are in the early stages of maturity, with only a few reaching advanced levels. She urged departments to actively engage in Communities of Practice to enhance collaboration and knowledge sharing.

Building a Knowledge-Driven Culture

Dr. Lance Barbier, the Director Knowledge Management: Western Cape, concluded the presentations by exploring the direct correlation between effective knowledge management and improved service delivery. He pointed out that South Africa's current service delivery challenges often stem from skills gaps and weak governance. By leveraging knowledge management, public officials can bridge the gap between their knowledge and actionable outcomes. Dr. Barbier emphasized the need for structured strategies, credible decision-making supported by tangible evidence, and the effective use of technology. He reinforced that measuring deliverables and critically evaluating

progress are vital for improving the socio-economic landscape of the nation.

Looking Ahead

The discussions at this CoP illuminated the transformative potential of knowledge management within the public sector. The insights from our distinguished speakers underscored pathways to harness collective wisdom, capture expertise effectively, and cultivate a knowledge-driven culture. As we look to the future, it is essential to implement these strategies while fostering a collaborative environment where knowledge sharing is integral to our operations.

By actively engaging in Communities of Practice and continuously refining our knowledge management practices, we can collectively tackle the challenges faced by our public service and contribute to sustainable development. Let us commit to building a future where knowledge management enhances service delivery and strengthens our communities.



Labour-Intensive Construction (LIC) training for Department of Public Works and Infrastructure officials

Article and pictures by: Florence Mananzi (EPWP Large projects)



The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI's) is in full swing to improve the implementation of Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) infrastructure projects and enhance creating and reporting the anticipated number of work opportunities across its projects. The EPWP Infrastructure Chief Directorate has therefore coordinated a Labour-Intensive Construction (LIC) NQF 5 training programme, which was attended by 29 Construction Project Management (CPM) officials from the Port Elizabeth and Mthatha Regional Offices. The training took place in East London, Eastern Cape on 10 to 13, September 2024.

This accredited training was aimed at empowering technical practitioners to implement LIC projects effectively within the department, ensuring that future projects create meaningful, sustainable employment opportunities while aligning with the broader goals of the EPWP. These projects are also fostering sustainable development by leveraging the local workforce and provide income for marginalized communities, transfer critical skills, and stimulates linkages within the local economy.

The training covered key aspects such as:

- Developing policies and procedures for Labour-Intensive Construction projects
- Preparing project documentation aligned with LIC principles
- Familiarizing attendees with design guidelines specific to LIC projects
- Promoting the use of Labour-Intensive Construction methods
- Gaining the necessary skills to manage LIC projects effectively
- Optimizing employment creation on infrastructure projects

One of the attendees was the Chief Project Manager at Mthatha Regional office, Mr Loyiso Matsiliza who responded to training offered by saying “ the Labour Intensive Construction (LIC) Training has been an Eye-opener for me personally, and the Mthatha Colleagues, as it was the first time we have attended a training of this nature. Lack of in-depth understanding and knowledge had led to certain perceptions being drawn in the past, perhaps because of how LIC has been integrated into Projects over the years. The Training has clearly depicted that LIC should not be an afterthought, or a means of compliance reporting in as far as the broader EPWP mandate is concerned, but an alternative means of creating Jobs and empowering Participants in Local Communities with relevant skills, that they can use even after the Project Completion” Mr Matsiliza concluded. Sharing the same sentiments, Mr Siyabonga Jikeka, Manager at Gqeberha Regional office said “Implementation of LIC provides an opportunity for projects implemented by the department to directly address socio economic challenges. The training provided practical insight on how to plan for incorporation of LIC in our projects during the design and planning stages i.e. task scheduling, balancing, histograms etc.”

Through this training, the practitioners will ensure that contractors implementing the EPWP projects do so in line with the LIC principles, which are critical for ensuring the effective implementation of the EPWP.



The Limpopo based Non-Profit Organisation demonstrates innovation skills

Article and pictures by Maanea Maselesele



A Non -Profit Organisation (NPO) called Organisation Hands On (OHO) created 80 EPWP work opportunities in the area of Modimolle in Limpopo. This organisation is a NPO located within the boundaries of Modimolle - Mookgophong Local Municipality in the Waterberg District in Limpopo Province. OHO is one of the 70 NPOs contracted to the NPO programme in Limpopo for the current Financial Year.

The aim of OHO is to empower communities with the pursuit to contribute towards positive change by implementing transformative initiatives that can drive change and create opportunities, improve the standard of living, create and maintain public assets and service in rural communities.

The NPO has come with the innovative initiative of producing charcoals out of white papers. Once the charcoals processed they used as an alternative to prepare food for pupils. "The use of recycled papers has also helped to improve cleanliness and to reduce littering in schools and community". Said Mr Ronny

Makgetha the NPO founder and Managing Director, the charcoals produce less air pollution, added Makgetha.

According to Deputy Director EPWP NSS Ms Mosima Ndhrazi indicated The NPO is implementing impactful sector programme where the young people are involved in the cleaning and maintenance the Public Facilities. "The cleaning of public facilities is one of the EPWP phase V focus to massify work opportunities, we are glad that OHO is has created work opportunities particularly for youth" said Ndhrazi.

Participants were recruited in and around Modimolle and placed at FH Odendaal Hospital, Modimolle Primary school and SAPS district offices. "I'm glad to be part of this project, it has been a life changing opportunity said Khomotso Mafefe, the cleaning and gardening supervisor who started as a participant. Among other activities OHO also run a community library and provide children with toys.



EPWP reflects on the past for a better future

Article and Pictures by Khanyisa Moagi



Reflecting on the past, the present and the future of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), the Nelspruit Regional Office of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (EPWP unit) together with Provincial counterparts saw it necessary to reflect on the best practices, failures, and successes of the previous phases of the Programme in the Mpumalanga Province.

In her opening and welcome address, Ms. PO Chiloane, encouraged the attendees of the EPWP Phase V workshop to strive to achieve the set annual targets, focusing on the key priorities of the programme as outlined in the official launch of the EPWP Phase V which took place in Eastern Cape in April 2024.

The workshop also discussed key priorities of Phase V and how to best to implement the Programme taking into consideration expansion initiatives which will assist government to alleviate the triple challenges of unemployment, inequality, and poverty.

In his presentation on the Phase V, Mr. Isaac Mothapo, EPWP Programme manager in Mpumalanga elaborated on the programmes that are implemented under each sector across three spheres of government. He highlighted the key priority areas of the EPWP Phase V as follows:

- a) Cleaning of Government buildings and public spaces;
- b) Waste Management and Recycling;
- c) Gender-based violence and Femicide;
- d) Road maintenance,
- e) Clean Energy Projects and Food security.

In conclusion, Ms. Fela Mashaba, EPWP Training manager in Mpumalanga presented the Provincial training plan where she highlighted that mandatory accredited training should be provided to all participants employed in the EPWP to improve their skills and to increase participants chance of getting permanent employment.

The awareness workshop kick started in the Gert Sibande District Municipality, followed by Nkangala District Municipality with the last leg of the workshop, taking place in Ehlanzeni District Municipality in the month of September 2024.



EPWP Gallery

