



EPWP NEWS

December 2019 edition

HAPPY
holidays

Expanded Public Works Programme participants set up a bakery service in Vosburg-Northern Cape

Article by Ofentse Letswalo

Pictures by Ofentse Letswalo



The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) has recently opened a bakery in Vosburg, in the Northern Cape.

The poverty stricken community of Vosburg is anticipated to immensely benefit from the newly set up bakery in the area. Dassie se Plek Bakery was officially opened on the 7th November 2019 and is expected to provide affordable fresh bread and other bakery confectionaries to the community.

The setting up of a bakery is an initiative by four EPWP participants (young people) who participated in the EPWP National Youth Service (NYS) Programme in the 2014/15 financial year. Upon graduation from the NYS Programme in March 2015, these participants identified a need to set up a bakery. Through the support of the EPWP Enterprise Development Directorate within National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure in Kimberley, they have managed to establish a cooperative by the name of Lovantia Trading Primary Cooperative Limited.



For all these years, it has been a struggle for the small community of Vosburg to have access to buy bread as they had to travel 100 km to buy bread or to wait for a one a week delivery of bread to their community.

This initiative was supported by various government departments and entities such as Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA), National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) and Mme Re ka Thusa Trust.

During the event, the Enterprise Development Directorate managed to:

- Showcase the establishment of the bakery and the work undertaken by the directorate in an effort to ensure that the EPWP participants have improved livelihoods
- Illustrate the best EPWP Enterprise development model
- Provide platform for cooperatives and stakeholders to engage amongst each other and identify opportunities for future collaboration.

Addressing community members and stakeholders in Vosburg, Ms Carmen-Joy Abrahams, Chief Director: EPWP Partnership Support, said that as part of efforts to improve the livelihoods of EPWP participants, the EPWP Enterprise Development Directorate in the EPWP Branch assist participants who have an interest to start and operate small businesses.

“Enterprise Development unit has a target of supporting 320 Enterprises nationwide for the 2019/20 financial year. However, the EPWP Enterprise Development Unit Manager in the Northern Cape is expected to support 27 enterprises.”

The Deputy Director for EPWP Enterprise Development in the Northern Cape Ms Nomazulu Sibanda said that the directorate has

negotiated with tuck shops in the area to buy bread from the bakery in support of this initiative and improve the local economy. In conclusion, Ms Sibanda said the EPWP will continue to provide support to other participants willing to start small businesses.

A member of Lovantia Trading Primary Cooperative, Ms Tata thanked government for this life changing opportunity and said that they will work hard to make this business a success.



Expanded Public Works Programme wins a prestigious international award for its role in the socio-economic development and upliftment of young people in South Africa

Article: by Michael Mokoena
Pictures by World Future Council



The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) has made an international stride when it won a bronze award for the implementation of successful youth empowerment policies. The announcement was made at the prestigious Future Policy Award 2019 ceremony in **Belgrade, Serbia** on 16 October 2019.

Subsequent to receiving an award on behalf of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, Deputy Minister Noxolo Kiviet said the prestigious accolade means that the work of political leaders, administrative managers and officials, for developing and implementing policies that enhance the empowerment of young people in conjunction with communities, is evidently making a difference.

She added that EPWP will continue to explore ways to enable sustainable livelihoods through training and skills development, as well as through advancing entrepreneurial development by supporting cooperatives and small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs).

“Youth unemployment remains a massive issue in our country where young people have so much to contribute and every effort must be made by government and the private sector to empower and give opportunities to young people. The EPWP’s bronze award is a recognition by the international community of South Africa’s role in the socio-economic empowerment and upliftment of young people in the country. The award also highlights proven policies that effectively promote and scale-up local, national, regional and international youth empowerment solutions,” Deputy Minister Kiviet said.

A total of 67 policies from 36 countries contested for the 2019 Future Policy Awards. The World Future Council (WFC), together with its partners, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the United Nations

Development Programme (UNDP), with the support of the Office of the UN Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) as well as Youth Policy Lab and Michael Otto Foundation and Jua Foundation had sent out a call for nominations to over 10,000 experts and representatives of international organisations, academia, non-governmental organisations, government agencies and other noted experts.

Eight inspiring and impactful laws and policies aimed at empowering young people to build a fair and sustainable future have been recognised at the Future Policy Award ceremony. The winners in various categories are: Rwanda, Estonia, Scotland (United Kingdom), Nepal, South Africa, Europe, Los Angeles (USA) and Senegal.





EPWP contributes to green economy through green jobs

Article by Lesego Moretlwe
Pictures by Lesego Moretlwe



As the world is facing severe effects of climate change, the local, national and international community have a role to play in addressing the situation. It is in within this context that the International Labour Organisation (ILO) recently hosted the workshop under the theme: Just transition to low-carbon and climate resilient economies in Southern Africa. The 5 day interactive workshop had the representation from Eswatini, Lesotho, Botswana and South Africa. Representatives from these countries included government, Organized Labour, community Liaison members and Business.

“Countries in Southern Africa are in general low emitters of greenhouse gases, but as climate change knows no border, the sub-region stands a high risk to suffer from the accelerating impacts of climate change and environmental degradation. Environmental risks, natural hazards and ecological scarcities hurt the poor and disadvantaged the most. The good news is that greening and “climate-proofing” the economy comes with vast opportunities. In fact, opportunities for gains may be largest in developing and emerging economies. The large-scale investments that enable a green restructuring of our economies can foster sustainable enterprises and drive job creation, skills development, improved job quality and increased incomes, as well as advances in equity, gender equality and social inclusion”.

The discussions provided an insight and approaches to support a just transition to sustainable, climate-resilient economies and societies in Southern Africa. Mr Gamelihle Sibanda made a presentation on the EPWPs initiatives and contribution towards green economy and illustrated the effects of floods influenced by climate change in South Africa, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi earlier this year. “The EPWP is well underway in creating the green work opportunities and has thus far created a 30% of the green jobs even though they are not reported as such” Mr Sibanda concluded.

The emphasis of the workshop was about leaving no one behind during the Just Transition period. Therefore as the industries are changing to adapt to the new methodologies there is a need for social protection,



social dialogue, gender equality, as well as reskilling and up-skilling of workers to suit the new environment.

“The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change provide a global framework to combat climate change, embark on a low-carbon and climate-resilient future and set the course for social justice. The Paris Agreement notes the imperatives of a just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work as essential building blocks of global and national responses to climate change. While it is clear that climate change will increasingly require enterprises and labour markets to react and adjust, the goal of environmental sustainability can only be achieved with the active engagement of the world of work”.

Through the discussions, the delegates had an opportunity to learn from best practices in the respective countries, share ideas and develop programme of actions/commitments on the measures/ initiatives that they are committing to undertake in ensuring that the Just transition to low carbon is supported and implemented in reducing carbon footprint in our environment thereby playing a role in ensuring a healthy and sustainable development.

As one of the activities undertaken by the delegates, all the represented countries developed their countrywide facilitation program that will assist in achieving the outcomes of Just Transition.





Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality launches EPWP electronic database system

Article by Michael Mokoena
Pictures by Michael Mokoena



In its effort to ensure transparency and accountability in the recruitment of community members into the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), the Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality has launched an EPWP electronic database system.

The database uses an electronic lottery system to select community members for eligibility to participate in the Metro's EPWP projects. According to the municipality's senior official, Mr Nelson Mahlangu, over 140 000 community members are currently registered in the EPWP electronic database.

On 18 November 2019, the municipality held a public meeting where they showcased the EPWP electronic database and how it electronically select names of community members to participate in the Programme. The event was attended by senior officials from the municipality and from the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure as well as community members from various wards in the city.

"Once the electronic lottery selection process has been done, members of the community who have been selected to participate in the Programme will be contacted telephonically and be informed of their selection to participate in the specific/identified EPWP project that the municipality will be implementing at that time," Mr Mahlangu said.

He explained that the municipality's EPWP electronic database is internally audited by the municipality to ensure that the process of recruiting participants is free and transparent.

"The municipality's Human Resource unit as well as the EPWP unit are also involved in the process to ensure that the recruitment is done fairly and transparently," Mr Mahlangu said.



He added that once the selected community members have accepted the EPWP opportunity that they have been selected for and have signed their work contracts, they (participants) will then be taken to the respective projects they been assigned to for the assumption of duties





EPWP participants assist in road maintenance in Emalahleni Local Municipality

Article by Michael Mokoena
Pictures by Michael Mokoena



The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) together with the Emalahleni Local Municipality in Mpumalanga, have embarked on training Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants to mend the potholes, maintain the storm water drainage and road signs markings.

All 25 EPWP participants are being trained and mentored by senior officials who work in the municipality's Roadworks Division as well those who work for the training provider called Imbawula Civil Projects PTY (LTD).

One of the participants, Ms Ayanda Motswi, said the project will contribute to safer roads in the town.

"The work that we are being trained to do not only ensures the safety of our roads but it also give us an opportunity to participate in the maintenance of our own community infrastructure," Ms Motswi said.

She pointed out that the training has also given them "valuable road maintenance skills which we can use to find work at local mines in the area".

According to DPWI's Mpumalanga EPWP Training Coordinator, Mr Lesley Nthangeni, the 25 participants are young people from townships and villages around Emalahleni (Witbank).

He said the participants had a minimum of Grade 10 and were identified by the municipality to participate in Skills Programme training Construction Road Works (NQF level 2) course on qualification.

"During training these learners received theory and practical training and were placed at different wards within the municipality

for workplace training," Mr Nthangeni said.

The EPWP Training Manager in Mpumalanga, Ms Fela Mashaba said the training was funded to the tune of more than R140 000 by the Department of Higher Education and Training-through the National Skills funds (NSF).

"While on training, learners received a daily training allowance of R92.31 from DPWI to cover for meals and transport. They also received a wage of R2 500 per month from Emalahleni Local Municipality," she explained.

Ms Mashaba pointed out that Imbawula Civil Projects PTY (LTD) was appointed to train, evaluate and mentor the learners throughout training. "Imbawula Civil Projects PTY (LTD) also administered training allowances to the learners," she said.

Ms Mashaba emphasized that the training will enhance the employability of participants who want to pursue a career in construction road-works. "The training will also serve as a foundation to those who are interested in further education in this field," she added.





EPWP assist visually impaired community members to read and write

Article by Emmanuel Jiyane
Pictures by Emmanuel Jiyane



The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure and the Mpumalanga Department of Culture, Sports and Recreation have set up libraries to assist blind and visually impaired community members to read and write. These two departments have appointed 12 participants through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) to work on a temporary basis at the 21 mini libraries that are located across three districts municipalities (Gert Sibande, Ehlanzeni and Nkangala) to assist blind and visually impaired community members to read and write and how to use the computer software for the blind and visually impaired.

This project has already reached a milestone by winning the 16th Centre for Public Service Innovative (CPSI) Award and was also nominated to participate in the continental celebration of the Africa Public Service Day in Nairobi, Kenya in June 2019.

Testimonials

One participant - Mr James Nkosi from Waterval Boven – currently holds a Certificate in Administration from Optima College. His duties at the library include teaching computer braille to blind and visually impaired community members.

“Today there are blind people that I have taught and have acquired their matric certificates and some of the community members I have taught have even opened a book club”.

He added that this EPWP project has assisted blind and visually impaired community members in the area to be able to read and write using braille and specialised computer software





DPWI hosts EPWP Social Sector Colloquium in KwaZulu-Natal

Article by Maanea Maselesele
Pictures by Maanea Maselesele



The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) recently held an Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Social Sector Colloquium in KwaZulu-Natal to discuss ways to align the implementation of the EPWP with the province's social development plan. The meeting, which was held in Pietermaritzburg, was attended by the EPWP Social Sector implementing departments in the province.

The EPWP Senior Manager in the province, Mr Sduduzo Simelane said "this colloquium is also aimed at sharing successes and good stories of the Social Sector as well as encouraging municipalities to intensify the implementation of the Social Sector projects within the province".

Delivering his opening remarks, the DPWI's Director for EPWP Coordination in KZN, Mr Xolani Xulu said aligning the implementation of the EPWP at both municipal and provincial levels to the province's Provincial Growth and Development Strategy 2035 (PGDS) would assist in the creation of more work opportunities for the poor and unemployed.

The Deputy Director for EPWP Social Sector, Ms Masego Maselwanyane presented the overview of the sector and what it seeks to achieve.

Some of the stakeholders who attended and made presentations at the meeting, include officials from Amajuba District Municipality as well as officials from the MSF Doctors without Borders NGO.





Community Works Programme (CWP) participants in Gauteng receive agricultural food production training

Article by: Karen Mthombeni

Pictures: by Karen Mthombeni



The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) is currently providing agricultural food production training to Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants in Ratanda, in Gauteng. The participants – who are all under the EPWP’s Community Work Programme (CWP) – are being trained in Plant Production course which entails theory and practical training. As part of training, the participants started a community food garden at one of their local church where they are producing different vegetables including spinach, onions and carrots.

One participant, Ms Florence Mhlambi said the training has given them an insight into how to start and operate a food garden. “We started with the process of analysing and identifying the type of soil we needed for our production, identified the correct fertilizer to rejuvenate and enrich the soil in preparation for planting of seeds,” she explained. Ms Mhlambi explained that their daily work include watering their produce as well as removing invasive alien plants that may harm their agricultural produce.

Another participant, Ms Thokoza Dlamini said project training has given her the skills on setting up and operating a food garden. “The things I have learned from this training have assisted me to set up my own food garden at home and I am happy that today, I can provide for my family,” she added.

According to EPWP Training Coordinator in Gauteng, Ms Julia Mulima, this training is at NQF level 4 and “it is assisting our participants to contribute in the fight against poverty and hunger by producing food for their families as well as for other community members who are in distress.”

She added that the DPWI is working with a Non-Profit Organization (NPO) called Iketsitse Enterprise and Network to implement the training project.

The administrator for the NPO, Ms Nthabiseng Kganye, said the training of the participants was vital in empowering the participants with skills that they can use to make a living for themselves. Ms Kganye – who was once an EPWP participant herself – said the food that the participants are producing from the gardens are also given to the community. “We donate the food to poor households in the area, particularly the child-headed households and pensioners,” Ms Kganye said.





GALLERY



