



Happy Holidays

EPWP contributes to the fight against gender based violence

Article by Michael Mokoena

Pictures by Katlo Development Centre



Ms Moswang thanked the government for providing survivors of abuse with work opportunities to assist them to become financial independent. "The EPWP has assisted us to provide various economic opportunities to the survivors of abuse that we are working with," she explained. According to Ms Moswang, Katlo Development Centre provides services to communities around Madibeng in Brits, North West.

In the execution of its work on GBV, the centre relies on EPWP participants, some of whom are qualified social workers and auxiliary social workers.

The survivors of GBV at the Centre play an important role in executing a range of activities including doing community awareness on GBV, providing support to survivors of abuse as well as working with the local police to attend to cases of abuse.

"We do door to door awareness on GBV, work in our local police stations, Thuthuzela Care Centres and also visit schools in the area to highlight the issue of abuse of women and children," Ms Moswang pointed out. She added that the Centre has also started doing Covid-19 awareness and screening work in the community.

The economic empowerment of survivors of gender based violence (GBV) is vital in the fight against the pandemic.

This is according to Ms Muthusi Moswang, the head of Katlo Development Centre - an Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) supported community based organisation that does work in the fight against the abuse of women and children in the North West.

Ms Moswang - who recently participated in a television interview with Enca news network - said the economic empowerment of survivors of GBV ensures that they do not get trapped in the vicious cycle of abuse.

"Many women who survive abuse are forced to go back to their abusers because they (survivors) are financially dependent on them (abusers). To stop this from happening, it is important to provide economic opportunities to the survivors," she said.

The Enca television interview that Ms Moswang participated in was part of the Annual 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children.



Ms Moswang thanked all government entities that work with her organisation including the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI), Department of Social Development (DSD) and the local South African Police Services (SAPS) in the Madibeng area.

The DPWI Manager responsible for EPWP in the North West, Ms Xoliswa Letsapa said that the department will continue to work with community based organisation to improve the lives of communities in the province.





KwaZulu-Natal hosts EPWP Focus Week

Article by Michael Mokoena
Pictures by Vusi Tshabalala



Mr Simelane explained that although site visits were only conducted district municipalities, representatives of local municipalities (in each district visited) attended.

“During these visits we also looked at how to work with municipalities in order to improve their performance in the implementation of the EPWP. Furthermore, we discussed audit issues that were raised by the Auditor General as well as engaged municipal managers on the signing of EPWP Phase 4 Protocols,” Mr Simelane explained.

He added that officials who attended the event also shared raised different ideas regarding expansion projects that can attract young people into the EPWP.

District municipalities visited included: iLembe, Harry Gwala, uMzinyathi, Ugu, Amajuba and uThukela District Municipalities.

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) has expressed confidence in the role played by municipalities in creating Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) work opportunities during Covid-19 and anticipate that this sterling work will continue post Covid-19.

Speaking on the sidelines of the KwaZulu-Natal EPWP Focus Week held recently by the province’s Department of Public Works, the EPWP senior Manager in KZN Mr Sduzuzo Simelane said the department was pleased with the performance of municipalities in the implementation of the EPWP.

“We are happy with the commitment shown by KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) municipalities of driving the creation of EPWP work opportunities especially during the Covid-19 pandemic. DPWI will continue to work with provincial departments and municipalities to create sustainable EPWP opportunities for the communities in the province,” Mr Simelane said.

The EPWP Focus Week is an annual event that is hosted by the province’s Department of Public Works and supported by national Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI).

The two-week long event sees both the province’s DPW and the DPWI officials visit KZN municipalities to monitor performance on the implementation of the EPWP. Under normal circumstances, the two-week long activities also include officials visit to some of the EPWP projects in those respective municipalities, this year site visits were suspended due to Covid-19.



Mpumalanga drives youth development in film and television production



Article By Michael Mokoena
Pictures by Michael Mokoena



The Nkangala District Municipality in Middleburg- Mpumalanga has recently hosted a graduation ceremony for 30 young people who have successfully completed a 12 months Learnership Programme in Television and Film Production.

This Learnership was a collaboration between Nkangala District Municipality, the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) branch in the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) and Limco Consulting and Management (a training provider in the field of Information and Communication Technology).

These young people who all come from the District's six local municipalities were trained in various media skills including advertising, film, television, radio and music production. The programme is accredited by Media, Information and Communication Technologies Sector Education and Training Authority (MICTSETA) and it is at NQF Level 5.

During training, some of these young graduates acquired practical experience from various media projects including at the internationally acclaimed local shoot of Beyonce's Black is King, SABC' Ngomusa documentary, Emalahleni Local Radio and other local media institutions in the province. Currently, 27 of these young graduates are working in various media projects in the Province.

The graduation ceremony was officiated by the Executive Mayor of Nkangala District Municipality, Cllr Linah Malatji who wished the graduates well for the future.

"We believe that you will use the skills you have acquired to go out there and tell the stories of our people in the province. We are truly proud of your achievements and we wish you the best in all that you do," Mayor Malatji said.

DPWI's EPWP Manager in Mpumalanga, Mr Issac Mothapo said the Department will continue to partner with all stakeholders to invest in the development of the youth in the Province.

"This Learnership project is one of many youth developmental programmes that we are supporting in the province. We worked with the municipality and all the stakeholders from the inception of the project and we are proud that we have produced skilled young people who will be able to find work or even setup their own small businesses," Mr Mothapo explained.

He added that DPWI also assisted with the funding of the project through the EPWP Incentive Grant.





Expanded Public Works Programme provide infrastructure services to Rustenburg residents

Article by Lesego Moretlwe

Pictures by Rustenburg Local Municipality



This initiative falls within the government's plan to stimulate employment opportunities and improve livelihoods beyond COVID-19. According to the government's economic recovery plan, "Of the R4.4 billion which has been reprioritised for the COVID-19 response, existing funds are available for roads, water and sanitation and will be used to create 25 000 additional EPWP work opportunities through highly labour-intensive projects. Recruited participants will also receive project-based skills training".

Twenty four (24) EPWP participants have been employed in this project and they will be offered training which will equip them with the necessary knowledge and skills with the aim of increasing their future employment prospects. All the participants were recruited from ward 8 and the surrounding areas following consultation with the community members and all the relevant stakeholders.

The project manager, Mr Fumathi Ntlhamu said the EPWP is contributing to his personal development, particularly interpersonal skills, community awareness and it is also assisting him to familiarise himself with the gaps and backlogs in infrastructure projects

In response to the basic infrastructure services need, the Rustenburg Local Municipality has embarked on construction of Lethabong sewer reticulation and toilet structure at ward 28 in Rustenburg-North West Province. This Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) project will be implemented within the period of six months and it is aimed at contributing to socio-economic relief in the community through creation of immovable assets and SMME's development.





EPWP hosted a Webinar focusing on reskilling and Enterprise Development

Article by Michael Mokoena
Pictures by Kgomotso Mathuloe



In an endeavor to uphold its mandate of alleviating poverty through the provision of training and work opportunities, the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) is hosting a series of Webinars and engaging stakeholders on strategies to maximise the creation of work opportunities in the era of Covid-19 and the economic downturn.

The most recent Webinar was held in October 2020 under the theme **“Re-skilling and Enterprise Development for PEPs in the era of Covid-19 and beyond”**. The discussions revolved around finding ways to drive employment and tackle poverty through the EPWP during and post Covid-19.

Two Speakers at the Webinar, Ms Liesel Eksteen, a Development Economist consultant and Mr Lungisani Dladla, Senior Manager in the EPWP Branch of DPWI, reflected on how some of the projects offered through EPWP can be redesigned to ensure participants are provided with skills required by the digitised new world of work.

Ms Eksteen said the EPWP should look at utilising both human and artificial intelligence (IA) in order to drive the development and upliftment of the nation in the post Covid-19 world. She said for the EPWP to increase work opportunities for South Africans post Covid-19, government must look at providing participants with a combination of skills such as emotional intelligence, the use of technology in performing tasks and advanced cognitive skills in preparing for the new digitised world of work.

Mr Dladla said that for EPWP to continue to deliver on its mandate of tackling poverty through creation of economic opportunities for the poor and unemployed, government may have to look at utilising the Programme to drive township entrepreneurship. He said government will have to provide development, finance and support to small businesses in the townships in order to create the much needed economic opportunities and jobs for the poor. Inputs from the EPWP Webinars will inform Policy discussions on how to improve the implementation and coordination of the EPWP across all spheres of government.





DPWI Mthata Region hosts NYS graduations in the community of Kwaaiman

Article by Michael Mokoena

Pictures by Nonhlanhla Ntuli-Mahlikihla



The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) continue to utilise the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) initiatives to contribute to youth skills development in the country. The Department has recently hosted an exit workshop for EPWP participants who were trained through the National Youth Service (NYS) programme in the Eastern Cape. The NYS is a sub-programme of the EPWP Infrastructure Sector and its objective is to develop artisan skills among the youth.

According to DPWI's Assistant Director: National Youth Service, Ms Nonhlanhla Ntuli-Mahlikihla, eighteen (18) participants who exited the Programme were from Kwaaiman (near Mqanduli town in the Eastern Cape) and were trained in various artisan skills such as plumbing and painting as well as other Built Environment skills.

"The exiting participants received a 12 months formal training which included onsite training where they worked on the refurbishment of Kwaaiman police station, Ms Ntuli-Mahlikihla said. She added that for this training project, the DPWI partnered with Coega Development cooperation.

The exit workshop was led by the EPWP Programme Manager in

the Eastern Cape Mr Mziwabantu Ntese who congratulated the participants and wished them well in their future endeavors.

The workshop was also attended by Councillor S. Mhlaba of Ward 27- King Sabata Dalindyebo Local Municipality who assisted with the recruitment of participants and local labour in the area of Kwaaiman in consultation with local traditional leaders.

The workshop was also attended by representatives from King Hintsa TVET College and the Department of Employment and Labour.

Participant's testimony

The participants thanked the government for providing them with an opportunity in shaping their skills that they can use to uplift themselves out of poverty.

One participant, Ms Silivile Phamehlo said the plumbing skills that she acquired from the Programme will also afford her an opportunity to contribute to the development of her community as most of rural areas are in need of these skills.



DPWI hosts NYS graduation ceremony in Pretoria



Article by Maanea Maselesele
Pictures by Maanea Maselesele



The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) recently hosted a National Youth Service (NYS) graduation ceremony at Lotus Gardens community hall in Pretoria – Gauteng where 12 participants completed an eight months theoretical and practical training in various fields of construction. Participants were renovating and repairing South African Police Service - AIU House. The training activities included: Health safety and environmental procedure, Electrical work, Mechanical work, Carpentry, Plastering and brick laying.

Upon completion, the Participants were awarded Competency Certificates in the Building & Civil Construction at NQF level 3.

Participant's testimony.

"We are very happy to have been offered an opportunity to participate in the NYS project. We have been equipped with skills that will assist us in the future," Mr Eric Makuta one of the participants said.

The NYS is a sub-programme of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

