



Government set to train a total of 2780 EPWP participants to drive the final phase of the Digital Terrestrial Migration

Article by Michael Mokoena
 Pictures by Emmanuel Jiyane



In a bid to fast-track the migration of the country's terrestrial television platform from analogue to digital, the government has started an Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) initiative to train a total of 2780 young people in the installation of set top boxes to over five million households across the country. The training programme started in January 2018 and the participants (in the programme) will be tasked with the responsibility of installing set top boxes (for digital migration) to five million poor households throughout the country by June 2019.

These young people are being trained as part of the EPWP's National Youth Service (NYS) Programme. The NYS programme is aimed at encouraging young people to participate in service delivery; promotes youth participation in the construction sector and assist the youth

to gain work-related skills necessary to access sustainable livelihood opportunities.

The training programme is funded by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) through its National Skills Fund (NSF). Since the start of the training programme, a total of 50 NYS participants have been trained in the Free State and will acquire a certificates in Broadcast Engineering. The five-day course is offered by a private company called LS Multi Copter Projects and Services and is accredited by the Media, Information and Communication Technologies Sector Education and Training Authority (MICTSETA).

Speaking during a site visit on 15 February 2018 in Welkom (in the Free State) to inspect the implementation of the training programme, the Deputy Director General (DDG) for EPWP in the Department of Public Works, Mr. Stanley Henderson said that the training programme will unlock innovative socio economic opportunities for the youth.

“This training programme will provide our youth with skills that can lead them into employment,” he said.

The Chief Director for EPWP Infrastructure in the Department of Public Works, Mr. Ignatius Ariyo explained that the participants were recruited into the training programme from the EPWP database of participants as well as from the list of unemployed people from local municipalities that are participating in the rollout of the digital migration programme.

“The key objective of this NYS training programme is to provide work and enterprise development opportunities to young people across the country. These young people are recruited and trained in the installation of the set top boxes. Once training has been completed, these young people will be assigned to work under specific companies to install set top boxes to five million selected poor households.”

“Once this target has been reached, these young people may be employed by the companies that they have been working for, to continue with the installation of set top boxes and satellite dishes to homes that are not covered in the five million target. These young people may also be used as sub-contractors by private companies in the sector to continue the work of installing satellite dishes and set top boxes to households throughout the country,” Mr. Ariyo explained.

The Chief Director for Technology in the Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) Programme in the Department of Communication (DoC), Mr. Wanda Dlangamandla said that the digital migration process was vital in that it will not only provide all South Africans – including the poor – with crystal clear quality visual television images, but will also allow for the radio frequency spectrum to be freed up allowing for faster mobile data services.

The Manager for SA Training Academy at LS Multi Copter Projects and Services, Ms. Dorothea Shutte said they were pleased with the progress at which the training was going.

Broadcast Digital Migration (BDM) is the process of launching digital television platforms in the form of Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) and switching off the old analogue terrestrial television platform.



National administrations in Europe, Africa and parts of Asia agreed to this process at the ratification of the Geneva 2006 Agreement, under the auspices of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) which put in place an all-digital plan for the use of frequencies in the VHF (173 MHz to 230 MHz) and UHF (470 to 862 MHz) bands. This plan, which entered into force on 17 June 2015, has served as an important impetus for countries to migrate from analogue to digital technologies.

DBE hosts annual National School Nutrition Programme Awards

Article by Emmanuel Jiyane
 Pictures by Emmanuel Jiyane



and dedication of districts and schools in the successful implementation of the NSNP.

Through these awards, the department also recognises and acknowledges the contribution of key role-players such as school food handlers and school governing bodies in the programme.

The NSNP is a sub-programme of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) which employs community members as food handlers who provide daily nutritious meals to children at schools across the country.

Since 2011, the DBE entered into partnership with Tiger Brands Foundation to award the winning school with industrial kitchen equipment to the value of R450 000 and a three year school breakfast for both the learners and educators. Prizes for the winning district include office equipment worth R800 000. The DBE also donated laptops, colour printers as well as digital photo cameras to runners-up schools.

Department of Basic Education (DBE) held the 2017/2018 National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) awards on the 08 March 2018 at Ratanda Primary School in Heidelberg, Gauteng. The annual awards were introduced in 2010 to recognise excellence, innovation

Below are the award categories:

CATEGORY	WINNER/S	TROPHY	CERTIFICATE
TOP 3 SCHOOLS			
1st place (Winner)			
Best School Award	Gauteng: Ratanda Primary School	Gold	Gold
2nd place			
Best School Award	Free State: Lerole Primary School	Silver	Silver
3rd place			
Best School Awards	Mpumalanga: Sijabule Primary School	Bronze	Bronze
5 SCHOOLS FINALIST			
Finalist Best School Awards	Eastern Cape: Ukhanyo Secondary School		Bronze
Finalist Best School Awards	Limpopo: ND Mokonyane Primary School		Bronze
Finalist Best School Awards	North West: Lekwakwa Primary School		Bronze
Finalist Best School Awards	Northern Cape: Laerskool Soverby		Bronze
Finalist Best School Awards	Western Cape: Pella Moravian Primary School		Bronze
TOP 3 DISTRICTS			
1st place (Winner) Best District Award	Free State: Thabo Mofutsanyana District	Gold	Gold
2nd place Best District Award	North West: Bojanala District	Silver	Silver
3rd place Best District Awards	Northern Cape: SF Mgcau District	Bronze	Bronze

EPWP CONTINUES TO CONTRIBUTE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Article by Michael Mokoena
Pictures by Michael Mokoena



Projects of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) continue to contribute in the fight against poverty and unemployment in many communities in South Africa. In Viljoenskroon (Rammulotsi Township) in the Free State, the EPWP has provided a total 898 community members with work opportunities to contribute in the socioeconomic upliftment of their community.

“The EPWP projects have helped poor community members to feed themselves and their families. In the past some parents were forced to scavenge for food at the local dumpsite in order to feed themselves and their children. Today this has changed because the government, through the EPWP, has established community food gardens that are producing nutritious foods for us,” Mr. Petrus Mkhwanazi said. Mr. Mkhwanazi is one of the 898 EPWP participants who are employed on a temporary basis by the Regeneration of the Lost Generation Organisation (Rolgo) – a Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) that is working with the government to roll-out some of the EPWP projects in Viljoenskroon.

“Today we are playing a central role in the socioeconomic development and upliftment of our community by participating in a range of EPWP projects such as working with the local municipality (Moqhaka Local Municipality) to clean our community; working with the local schools to encourage young people to stay away from alcohol, drugs and other social ills and producing food (through food gardens) for poor families as well as for our local hospice. We also have started our own small brick manufacturing project which produces affordable bricks for our local community,” another participant Ms. Noni Modungwa said.

Ms. Modungwa works in the Rolgo’s EPWP recycling project. “Our recycling project is important because it does not only contribute to a cleaner and sustainable community, but it also contributes in our economic wellbeing. We sort out and sell the material that we have collected. This allows us to make money for ourselves so that we can look after our loved ones,” Ms. Modungwa added.

Some of the EPWP projects that Rolgo has undertaken includes the provision of entrepreneurial skills for the local youth; facilitating the deepening of faith and cultural values as well as promoting peaceful co-existence in the communities through peaceful conflict resolution measures.

The NPO works with a range of stakeholders including the local municipality, faith based organisations, the Free State Department of Social Development and the Department of Public Works - through Independent Development Trust (IDT).

The Councillor for Ward 21 at the Moqhaka Local Municipality, Mr. Zenzile Magadlela stated that the EPWP has assisted the municipality to create work opportunities for the poor. “With the majority of our population in this community being unemployed, the EPWP has assisted a lot in the provision of short-to medium term work opportunities for our people. Recently, some of the EPWP participants led a peaceful march to the municipal offices to pay their municipal rates and taxes - this has encouraged other residents to also pay their rates and taxes,” Councillor Magadlela explained.

The Director for Viljoenskroon Hospice Mr. Chris Mokatsane said the EPWP has provided the hospice with the much needed caregivers. “The caregivers help in looking after patients who are taking chronic medication as well as the elderly. These EPWP caregivers also do home visits to assist patients and the elderly in the community,” Mr. Mokatsane said.

The manager for Rolgo NPO Mr. Sandile Sobayeni thanked the Department of Public Works for paying the monthly wages of the participants and acknowledged the role that EPWP is playing in the fight against poverty, social ills and joblessness.



EPWP POSITIVELY IMPACTS THE LIVES OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN KHAYELITSHA TOWNSHIP –WESTERN

Article by Mosima Ndlanzi
Pictures by Mosima Ndlanzi



In 2004 Ms. Vivian Zilo identified the need for a soup kitchen in the community of Khayelitsha, Site C in the City of Cape Town Metropolitan Municipality, Western Cape Province. Mama Vivian as she is fondly known in the community started the soup kitchen project after having participated in a research programme by the Desmond Tutu TB Centre at the University of Stellenbosch. The aim of the research programme was to find out what the reasons were for patients to default from their chronic disease treatments.

Upon completion of the research, Mama Vivian discovered that most patients were not taking their treatment as frequently as they should because they were not able to afford daily meals that should be taken together with or before their treatment. The research studies also indicated that Discrimination and stigma were some of the contributing factors that led most patients not to disclose their health statuses.

In 2006 Mama Vivian started the soup kitchen with the aim of supporting the affected and infected community members. After having started the soup kitchen, Mama Vivian continued to establish the Iliso Care Society Organisation in 2007. This Non-Profit Organizations (NPO) (Iliso Care Society Organisation) is one of many organizations that are supported by the Department of Public Works through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Non-State Sector (NSS) Programme.

The primary objective of the EPWP NSS -NPO Programme is to create an avenue where NPOs can support and contribute to the government priority of alleviating poverty and creating work opportunities for the poor local communities. The NSS Programme targets NPOs that are already involved in socially constructive activities in their local communities and are creating work for the large number of people.

Through this NPO, a total number of 80 EPWP work opportunities have been created during the 2017/18 financial year. These work opportunities have been created in and around the Khayelitsha location in the Western Cape.

The participants contracted under Iliso Care Society Organisation are involved in the implementation of the following project activities, Early Childhood Development (ECD) and Library/ Toy Library; Life Skills/Social Crime Prevention; Women and Youth empowerment Programmes; Food Gardening, Health and Food packs; HIV/AIDS Outreach Programmes; and Youth Artistic Programs. The participants consist of women, youth and people with disabilities.

EPWP partners with NPOs in Mpumalanga to develop the youth in the province

Article by Emmanuel Jiyane
Pictures by Emmanuel Jiyane



The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) is working with the Ecolink Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) in Mpumalanga to drive the socioeconomic development of the youth in the Ehlanzeni District. The NPO is running a range of youth developmental programmes such as HIV/Aids awareness campaigns, career guidance initiatives, food garden and water conservation campaigns, as well as initiatives to support youth owned small businesses. The NPO has also extended its programmes to surrounding rural villages in the Limpopo Province.

During 2017/18 financial year, the NPO created a total of 400 work opportunities. The participants' activities include working in the NPO's food gardens and other range of programmes that the NPO is implementing. The participants receive their monthly EPWP wages from the Department of Public Works.

Participants' testimonials

Ms. Florah Sambo, a participant in the Programme, said that the EPWP has given her dignity because the wages she received from the programme assisted her to provide for her five children. "I am happy because the Programme also encourages us as women in the area to acquire skills such as sewing and growing of vegetables in the community gardens," Ms Sambo said.

Ms. Sambo, a resident of Mahushu near Nelspruit, also pointed out that the opportunity to participate in the Programme has also given her hope.

"Before joining the Programme, I was unemployed and I had even resorted to binge drinking. I was hopeless at the time. But today I am full of life – I wake up in the morning and go to work like many other women in the area. I am contributing to the development of my community," she added.



For Ms. Phindile Shube, participating in the project has given her an opportunity to contribute in the development of her community. "The NPO is helping the community of Mahushu with the fight against poverty. Children from local schools are also being given daily nutritious meals by the NPO," she said.

Ms. Shube also thanked the government for providing the community with programmes such as the EPWP: "The EPWP has contributed a lot in keeping our youths away from crime and substance abuse. I wish that government and other stakeholders can increase their intake of our people – especially the youth - into various programmes and projects of the EPWP," she added.

EPWP project contributes in the fight against HIV and Aids in Soweto

Article by Emmanuel Jiyane

Pictures by Emmanuel Jiyane



The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants who are placed at the Ikusasa Lethu Youth Project Non-Profit Organization (NPO) are contributing in the fight against HIV and Aids in Soweto, Gauteng. The 109 participants are providing home based care services to people living with HIV and Aids in and around the area of Freedom Park, in Soweto.

The NPO is funded by the Departments of Health (DoH) and by the Department of Social Development (DSD), however monthly wages of the participants are paid by the Department of Public Works (DPW). Participants who are appointed as home based carers are responsible for a range of activities including caring for bedridden patients, bathing them, supervising that they (patients) take their medication on daily basis, providing counselling to the patients, providing psychosocial support to the infected and affected as well as educating the general public about HIV and Aids.

The NPO also provides a range of socially beneficial services such as care for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), a drop-in centre services as well as the Isibindi programme. With the drop-in centre service, the NPO monitors children's school work, provide bereaving counselling for the children whose parents have passed on. Visit schools to monitor the children's performance.

The NPO is also running its own bakery services, which it uses to generate funds. The NPO bakes bread and cakes, which it sells to the locals in order to generate money for self-sustainability.

The Executive Director for the organisation, Mr. Joey Monane said that the NPO's future plan was to have facilities such as sick rooms, counselling rooms and as well as storage rooms. "We intend launching a skills development programme that will assist the local youths. We also wish to procure training equipment to roll-out an aerobics programme for the youth and senior citizens in the area".

Participants' testimonials

Mr. Thabang Manyoni, a participant in the NPO from 2015 to 2017, said that participating in the EPWP gave him dignity. The NPO placed the 30-year-old Mr. Manyoni as a cleaner at the Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital. He also used to assist at the hospital's laundry division.

"Life was tough before I joined the EPWP because I was unemployed," he said.

Mr. Manyoni has since exited from the NPO and found permanent employment at the hospital as a cleaner. "I am so happy about my appointment by the hospital. Today I am able to support my children and I am even intending to buy them a house. I thank the EPWP for giving me the skills and work experience that I needed to attain a permanent job," he added.

For 32-year-old Ms. Christina Khumalo, participating in the EPWP afforded her an opportunity to study further. "I joined the NPO in 2009 and was trained as a social auxiliary worker. I then furthered my studies through the University of South Africa (UNISA) and eventually graduated as a social worker," she said.

Ms. Khumalo is working permanently at the NPO and is responsible for counselling members of the community who are infected with HIV.

"I am also responsible for referring patients to relevant health centres in the area," she said.

She added that other activities she did at the NPO included facilitating life skills to the youth and providing parenting skills to parents; supervising the care workers at the NPO; visiting patients at their homes as well as monitoring the academic activities of the children at the NPO.

She too was unemployed before participating in the EPWP. "Today I am employed and I have a qualification. At home the situation has also changed for the better. The EPWP has indeed given me a better life," Ms. Khumalo added.

GALLERY

