



EPWP Webinar on Business owners and future leaders of the Chefs Industry

Article by Michael Mokoena

Pictures by South African Chefs Association



Challenges posed by Covid-19 will not obstruct government's work of providing training opportunities to Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants, said the Director of EPWP Enterprise Development Mr Malusi Hadebe.

Speaking on the sidelines of the first national Virtual Information Session on EPWP Enterprise Development Training that was held earlier this month, Mr Hadebe said that the government will continue to provide participants exiting the Programme with opportunities to gain entry into the world of business.

"As a unit, we want to unlock the entrepreneurial expertise of EPWP participants and those who are leaving the Programme. That is why we have worked with the International Labour Organizations (ILO) to come up with courses such as Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB), which is a basic course on setting up, managing and growing one's business," Mr Hadebe said.

The DPWI held the first EPWP virtual information session in partnership with the South African Chefs Association (SACA) and the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA). The two hour long session was held on the Zoom Digital Platform and saw young people who have been trained as Chefs by SACA being given information about the SIYB course.

In his presentation to the young chefs, Mr Hadebe unpacked the course content of the SIYB. He took them through the three components of the SIYB course, namely Generate Your Business Idea, Start Your Business and Improve Your Business.

Mr Hadebe said that EPWP Enterprise Development Unit will be conducting more virtual information session in the future. He added that as a unit, they were looking at providing both a virtual and face-to-face SIYB training to EPWP participants.

"I think we (government) will have to also look at ways to ensure that our participants have access to data in order for them to be able to attend both the information session and the actual training," Mr Hadebe said.

During the Information session, the youth from various parts of the country, were also provided more information on how to apply for business assistance from NYDA. Ms Lehlogonolo Mogale, the NYDA official from Limpopo, tabled a range of business assistance packages that the Agency provided for the youth.

At the end of the presentations by officials, the young chefs were provided with an opportunity to ask questions. Some of the questions asked related to the costs of participating in the SIYB course as well as the age cut-off for receiving support from NYDA.



Department of Public Works and Infrastructure continue to contribute to the government's economic recovery plan

Article by Michael Mokoena
Pictures by EPWP Communication



Provincial numbers	Gross number of work opportunities created(01 April 2020 to 31 December 2020)
Eastern Cape	108,279
Free State	29,343
Gauteng	50,917
KwaZulu-Natal	144,614
Limpopo	62,715
Mpumalanga	27,386
North West	31,754
Northern Cape	13,875
Western Cape	46,979

As the Covid-19 pandemic continues to threaten the livelihoods of many South Africans, the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) re-affirms its position to alleviate poverty and unemployment by providing work opportunities to the poor and unemployed South Africans. This re-affirmation is in line with Honourable President Cyril Ramaphosa's outline of key priority areas in his recent State of the Nation Address (SONA).

Speaking during the tabling of his 2021 State of the Nation Address in Parliament on 11 February 2021, President Ramaphosa commended the contribution of government programmes in the fight against poverty and unemployment in the country.

Despite challenges posed by COVID-19, the EPWP continues to create the much needed work and training opportunities for the poor and unemployed South Africans.

The EPWP has between April 2020 and December 2020 created 515,862 work opportunities for the poor and unemployed South Africans. All four Sectors of the EPWP – Infrastructure, Environment & Culture, Social and Non-State – contributed to these opportunities, with the largest numbers coming from Infrastructure with 208,505 work opportunities, followed by Social with 164,275 work opportunities. The EPWP Environment & Culture, and Non-State sectors created 108,762 and 34,320 respectively.

EPWP performance per Province (April 2020 to December 2020)

KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape continue to lead in the creation of EPWP opportunities – the two provinces created 144,614 and 108,279 respectively. The performance by other provinces is as follows:

The EPWP acting Deputy Director General, Ms Carmen-Joy Abrahams has said that the EPWP will continue with initiatives to stimulate employment opportunities and improve livelihoods beyond covid-19.



EPWP participants embark on Lohatlha Military Base bulkwater pipeline construction

Article and pictures by: Mbulelo Theodore Ntetshe (NYS Kimberley Regional office)



The South African Army Combat Training Centre in Posmansburg, Northern Cape Province is unique because it is one of only four such institutions in the world that provide exclusive and permanent facilities for inland warfare training. The only one located in the Southern hemisphere, the South African Army Combat Training Centre, referred to as the Lohatlha military base, is one of the largest in the world, spanning 158 000 hectares in total.

The Lohatlha Military base was established in 1978 due to a need by the Department of Defence (DOD) for a military training facility where conventional and integrated training on a divisional level could be executed.

Subsequent to various engagement sessions with the military base, the need for a larger water supply was identified. It is for this reason that the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (NDPWI) initiated a project to construct the 9km Bulk water pipeline to resolve the water capacity woes of the base.

The Department of Defence (DOD) together with the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) hosted a sod turning ceremony recently to kick-start this much needed project. Through the EPWP National Youth Service (NYS) Programme, 30 young people will be trained on various artisan skills.

The sod-turning ceremony included a display of the ground breaking welding technology to be employed on the project. This R42 million bulk water pipeline project will be implemented within 14 months and will have a guaranteed lifespan of at least 100 years.

Speaking during the event, the Executive Mayor of Tsantsabane Local Municipality Ms. Mpho Mashila said “We appreciate the inter-sphere working relationship between the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, the SANDF and ourselves as the local municipality. As a local municipality we see this project as an investment in the lives of our people in this area in particular the youth who will be empowered with a scarce skill. We would like to see more funded EPWP projects implemented with that strong element of skills

development which will empower our municipality to deal with water related challenges, road maintenance as well as revenue collection to ensure our municipality renders the best of service to our residents.”

True to the unrelenting spirit of the NDPWI’s impeccable service to our Client Departments, the Officer Commanding Colonel Henry Uithaler took the Regional Manager and the regional User Demand Management Head Ms. Permanent Chabalala through their base’s colossal kitchen. The purpose was to identify capacity and equipment challenges of the kitchen, which its capacity accommodate and serve up to 9 000 people.

Meanwhile, Regional Manager for Kimberley Regional Office, Ms. Ruwayda Baulackey said that the “NDPWI enjoys a great working relationship with DOD, this project has long been coming and it allows further cementing of working relations between our two Departments. This project bears testament to the unrelenting commitment of DPWI to preserving, rehabilitating and maintaining its infrastructure more so since Lohatlha is a strategic and world class facility”.

Skills development and training

Six young people will be trained in cutting edge and welding technology such as Butt, Electrofusion, Socket Fusion, Hot Air Extrusion and Solvent welding and they will be transported from Postmasburg to Plastics SA in Johannesburg for theoretical training. The training of these participants will be beneficial to the community at large as there are many mines in and around the Postmasburg area.

The Tsantsabane Local Municipality will therefore be in a position to link qualified young artisans with opportunities when approached by a myriad of mining houses in the area for a competent skills force. The requirements for candidate to be offered this training were pure Mathematics and Physical Science in line with the requirement of NYS. The candidates will be subjected to a competency test from the Department of Labour and Employment, this is to ensure an ideal match of the opportunity at hand with the candidates to minimise dropouts thus preserving the NDPWI investment made in the youth.

Among the dignitaries who attended the event were Mr. Sandiso Cosa, Professional Construction Project Manager, Colonel Uithaler, Officer Commanding of the Lohatlha Combat Training Centre, the Consultant and Contractor as well as a few NDPWI officials.

Recruitment of EPWP Participants

The EPWP workers on the project were recruited in line with the four universal principles of EPWP which were adopted as core elements of Public Employment Programmes (PEPs) in South Africa:

- a) Workers to be recruited through a fair and transparent process.
- b) The adherence to the minimum wage.
- c) Work provides or enhances public goods or community services.
- d) Compliance with minimum labour-intensity appropriate to a particular Sector.

EPWP Participants awarded National certificates in Public Administration

Pictures and story by Kgomotso Mathuloe



“The graduation today is the beginning of another chapter in your lives” this was said by the MEC for Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Affairs, Mr Yusi Shongwe while officiating the graduation ceremony of 47 EPWP Participants who successfully completed a National Certificate in Public Administration which is accredited by Public Service Sector and Education Authority (PSETA) at NQF level 5.

The glittering ceremony took place at Nutting House in Mbombela, Mpumalanga on 23 February 2021. Amongst the attendees were senior managers from PSETA, Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Affairs (DARDLEA) and Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) and Principal of Step Ahead Training Academy.

MEC Shongwe congratulated the learners for a splendid personal achievement. He also quoted Orrin Hatch who said that graduation is not the end; but a beginning. He thanked the leadership of the PSETA, Public Works and Infrastructure and the training provider for this partnership which has ensured that youth are empowered with critical skills that will assist them in their future endeavours.

He said that these partnership will continue to ensure that more young people in the Province are provided with skills to become employable or start their own businesses.

Mr Isaac Mothapo, Manager responsible for Environment and Culture Sector in Mpumalanga thanked PSETA and service provider for their commitment in ensuring that learners complete this training programme amid Covid 19 and the National lockdown.

Mr Mothapo acknowledged the role that DARDLEA always play in skills development, and upliftment of youth as well as the implementation of EPWP. He said that DARDLEA has always invested in the high level accredited skills Programmes. “The Department has been participating in EPWP Grant for the past five years; and you have qualified for over 5 million of EPWP grant for the new financial year.” Mr Mothapo said.

He said that they will continue to provide support to provincial departments to ensure they intensify the creation of work and training opportunities for young people.



Moses Kotane Local Municipality invest in EPWP Cooperative

Article by Michael Mokoena

Pictures by Rhoda Moroe (Enterprise Development unit, Mmabatho Regional office)



Municipalities in the North West are implementing the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) to alleviate poverty while creating work opportunities for the poor and unemployed residents in the province. One of the municipalities implementing the EPWP is Moses Kotane Local Municipality in Bojanala District Municipality which through its Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and Local Economic Development (LED) units invest in creating assets and empowering EPWP participants through training interventions.

One of the EPWP projects that the municipality invested in is Maletapula Vegetable Production Project, which is a Cooperative that produces affordable and good quality vegetables for the community of Mahobiskraal. The municipality used the LED budget to fund the Cooperative with garden tools, seeds, fencing, borehole and engine to draw water for watering the garden. The EPWP unit within the Municipality is funding the cooperative through the payment of stipend.

The Cooperative created eight work opportunities in the area and the Cooperative members contributed towards the purchase of the seedlings to plant. The Cooperative has a vision of planting and selling vegetables to the shops and households around Mahobiskraal.

The EPWP Enterprise Development (ED) Unit in the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure conducted an assessment of the Cooperative and identified the training needs and business interventions relevant for the Cooperative. The interventions identified by the ED were technical training with regard to vegetable production and business training which included costing, marketing and record keeping.

EPWP ED has established partnerships with business development agencies in the Province. The Cooperative was referred to Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) for training, support and guidance.

Nkangala District Municipality hosts graduation ceremony for existing EPWP participants

Article by Michael Mokoena

Pictures by Isaac Mothapo



In a bid to attract the youth into the field of agriculture, the Nkangala District Municipality in Mpumalanga has recently trained 29 young people in plant production. These young people, who were all trained through the assistance of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), received their certificates of completion during a graduation ceremony that was held in Middleburg.

The Divisional Manager for EPWP at the municipality Mr Tiro Mabunda, said the 29 participants successfully completed a one year Diploma in Plant Production. The course is accredited at NQF Level 5 by the Agricultural Sector, Education and Training Authority (AgriSETA).

“The aim of the training was to provide local youths with skills in agriculture while also assisting them with income for the duration of the training,” Mr Mabunda said.

During training, graduating participants were offered both theory and practical lessons. For practical training, the participants were placed at Agriesy Trading Company at Goedehoop Farm Portion 10 in Middleburg.

Mr Mabunda explained that moving forward, the municipality has advised the graduating participants to form cooperatives so that they can take advantage of business opportunities in the agricultural sector.

The Municipality has also pledged to support the graduating participants with farming inputs and equipment once they have acquired a piece of land and opened businesses.

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure’s Manager, responsible for EPWP Environment and culture sector in Mpumalanga, Mr Isaac Mothapo commended the Municipality for implementing this learnership.

He explained that the Department will engage its EPWP Enterprise Development Unit to assist the young graduates to form cooperatives and look for opportunities in the province’s agricultural sector.

The graduation ceremony was officiated by the Executive Mayor of Nkangala District Municipality, Cllr Sarah Masilela who wished the graduating participants well for the future.

One graduating participant, Ms Andile Mabena, thanked the government for the training opportunity.

“The training gave us skills on how to manage and work on a farm. I believe that if we work together we will be able to establish cooperatives so that we can look for work in agricultural sector in the Province,” she stated.