

The DPWI continues to develop scarce skills in Kimberley

By Shudufhadzo Mudau

Fifty-five (55) young people in Kimberley in the Northern Cape are being trained in various artisan trades, thanks to a commitment by the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI), to continue to help develop scarce skills in South Africa.

The Department's Professional Services branch recently hosted the progress monitoring session for the Apprenticeship programme in Kimberley. Thirty-five (35) of the 55 trainees enrolled into the 3-year-programme are young women.

The programme is being run across the country to address the shortage of qualified artisans such as electricians, plumbers, carpenters and professional painters among others. At the end of their training, the apprentices will take a trade test practical final exam before becoming qualified artisans.

Professional Services Acting Director Donald Baikgaki has emphasized that the 55 trainees are not the first group to be taken under the programme. "The programme has been running smoothly for some years and we have been producing qualified artisans in different fields. Some of them are being absorbed by the Department and some of them are holding management position as I am talking today, not only in the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure but also in other government departments and in the private sector," explains Baikgaki.

One of the trainees who is learning carpentry skills Lesedi Mokgoro said she was grateful for the opportunity given to her by the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure. She has added; "I can proudly say the Department is one of those departments that are reviving hope to the hopeless youth of South Africa and I will make sure that I complete this training in record time so that I save money for the Department and also opening up space for those who will be coming into the programme after me."