



**Press Release
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YOUTH BRIGADE INITIATIVE TO EQUIP 200 UNEMPLOYED YOUTH

About 200 unemployed youth from seven identified municipalities in Mpumalanga will this financial year benefit from the Department of Human Settlement's Youth Brigade Programme of an overall budget of **R32 million** which is 10% of the Department's budget. The initiative seeks to develop their skills, broaden the understanding and aspirations for working within the building environment and access opportunities available within the human settlements delivery chain.

The programme is sought to strengthen youth participation in service delivery, promote their participation in building environments and to assist youth to gain work-related skills that are necessary to access sustainable livelihood opportunities. Municipalities from which the 200 recruits will come from are; Steve Tshwete, Mbombela, eMalahleni, Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme, Thembisile Hani, Govan Mbeki and Lekwa.

MEC Violet Siwela pointed that despite a few challenges in the recent year, the initiative had however seen credible success whereby all participants received their formal training with the assistance of other stakeholders such like the National Home Builders Registration Council (NHBRC).

"The programme is a joint initiative between the Provincial Department of Human Settlements, National Department of Human Settlements, NYDA, NHBRC and participating local Municipalities. We are confident that the programme will not only create work and training opportunities for the unemployed youth but ensure their participation in community service delivery and also instill the spirit of patriotism in young people," pronounced MEC Siwela.

The programme has since been launched formally in the Province in August last year at Mgobodzi and have recruited 200 unemployed youth from four various municipalities. In ensuring the realization of a successful programme this year, MEC Siwela acknowledged that a conscious position has been taken to allocate 10 percent of the budget to youth programmes to fulfill the Department's order to improve the lives of the youth.

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