



Building No 6 & 7, No 7 Government Boulevard, Riverside Park, Extension 2
Mbombela, Mpumalanga, Private Bag X11328, Mbombela, 1200
Tel: +27 (13) 766 6088, Fax: +27 (13) 766 8441

Litiko
Lekuhlaliswa Kwebantfu

Departement van
Menslike Nedersittings

UmNyango
Wokuhlaliswa Kwabantu

Press Release
29 June 2016

YOUTH EQUIPPED WITH CONSTRUCTION SKILLS

Youth Brigade Programme participants in Mpumalanga have been equipped to take part in the construction sector. The Department of Human Settlements honoured 17 of the programme's participants with Building and Civil Construction certificates at Vaalbank, Dr. JS Moroka Local Municipality yesterday, 28 June 2016 after they had successfully completed their theory and practical training with the department. 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 a partnership between the Department, National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) and the National Home Builder's Registration Council (NHBRC). Speaking at the event, MEC Violet Siwela confirmed that the Department has allocated 10 percent of its budget which translates to R32 million to support youth owned enterprises. "With this initiative it is clear that the Department is therefore well positioned to facilitate coordinated planning towards the realization of progressive development to our youth. We are very pleased with the manner in which they responded to this programme and cooperated with their supervisors to the end," highlighted Siwela.

Ms Pontsho Maako (28) said that the training was entirely an eye-opener for her and has assisted in intensifying her interests in the construction industry. "I have always been petrified with the idea that this was a male dominated trade. I am excited that I was able to follow my heart and persevered throughout the sessions to get my recognition," explained Mkhabela.

The programme is an initiative that involves youth within the human settlements delivery process and the programme is characterized by community service, structured learning and personal development. It also seeks to facilitate the participation of youth and is aligned to the comprehensive plan for the creation of sustainable human settlements. The aim of the programme is to strengthen youth participation in service delivery, promote youth participation in building environment and to assist youth to gain work-related skills necessary to access sustainable livelihood opportunities. Additional 200 youth recruits from; Steve Tshwete, Mbombela, eMalahleni, Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme, Thembisile Hani, Govan Mbeki and Lekwa will take part in the programme this year.

ISSUED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTORATE
MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
CONTACT: FREDDY NGOBE – 013 766 6014 / 082 859 4630/ fngobe@mpg.gov.za
