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PRESS RELEASE

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R8 MILLION PUBLIC PARKING PROJECT TO CREATE MORE JOB & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EPWP BENEFICIARIES

More and more Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) beneficiaries in the North West continue to benefit from the programme's exit opportunities courtesy of the Provincial Public Works Department.

The Department is currently engaging the Mafikeng Local Municipality and the contractor of the R8 million Provincial Legislature Public Parking Extension Project in Mmabatho to identify EPWP beneficiaries trained in labour intensive construction method to form the project's workforce.

The department has insisted on the involvement of some of the fifty-five (55) EPWP beneficiaries who were engaged in the R6 million Ga-Rona Provincial Government Precinct Landscaping Project as an exit strategy in ongoing efforts to upscale the scope and impact of the programme.

During the implementation of the landscaping project, beneficiaries acquired skills in welding, landscaping maintenance, paving and tiling.

As part of the project's exit plan, the contractor is to stay on site for a period of three months, for further training of beneficiaries, so that they would eventually take over the maintenance of the surroundings at Ga-Rona Provincial Government Precinct for a further nine months.

The extension of the public parking project at the Legislature requires beneficiaries who have been trained and are skilled in welding and paving.



Ten (10) beneficiaries who have received extensive training in welding are to be involved in the Public Parking Extension Project. More beneficiaries are still to be recruited for the four-months project, which is aimed at enhancing and adding visual value to Mmabatho Central Business District and the Provincial Government Buildings and Legislature surroundings.

EPWP was launched in 2004 in the province to create employment and provide training by encouraging labour intensive practices in the construction, repair and maintenance of public infrastructure such as roads, bridges and buildings.

Meanwhile, the Department has allocated a budget of R14, 5 million for community empowerment in the 2007/08 financial year. In announcing the allocation in his Departmental Budget Vote Speech, MEC Howard Yawa said, "The Community based programme resolves around job creation, support for SMME development, human development through skills transfer, redressing uneven development, monitoring and evaluation."

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