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Department of Public Works
Departament van Openbare Werke
Lefapha La Ditiro Tsa Setshaba

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MUNICIPALITIES AND PRIVATE SECTOR SHOULD OFFER EXIT OPPORTUNITIES FOR EPWP BENEFICIARIES SAYS MEC YAWA

North West Public Works MEC, Howard Yawa says that his department has set in motion a process to recruit 500 youth for participation in the National Youth Service through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). He was addressing the EPWP Certification Award Function for the Central Region held at the Barolong Boo-Ratshidi Community Hall in Mafikeng on Tuesday.

The recruitment process is in response to the call by President Thabo Mbeki for government departments to be involved in the National Youth Service Volunteer Programme, and announcement by Premier Edna Molewa in her State of the Province Address as to the department's target.

MEC Yawa congratulated the 170 EPWP graduates who received accredited certificates for their tireless commitment to the EPWP and for acquiring skills in Bricklaying, Plastering, Carpentry, Electrical Construction, Plumbing, Welding, Tiling, Paving and Landscaping. He stressed the commitment of the department of Public Works to the skills revolution and its determination to take the People's Contract to a level where intergovernmental and public private partnerships results in tangible deliverables to the people.

Yawa said that his department as the co-ordinating department for the programme was working with other government departments and municipalities to develop an exit strategy for beneficiaries. This he said would ensure their participation beyond training and project



implementation so as to gain experience as cooperatives in order to access further opportunities for participation in the economy. He called on municipalities and the private sector to offer exit opportunities for beneficiaries and to tap into them as a skilled workforce as projects they have delivered attest to their capacity to deliver quality infrastructure.

"As a department we are committed to the skills revolution and will indisputably fulfill the Premier's pronouncement of our involvement in the National Youth Service as our contribution to the realisation of government's objective to eradicate poverty through job creation and halve unemployment by 2014" concluded MEC Yawa.

The joyous event was graced by amongst others, the Executive Mayor for the Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality, the Mayor of Ramotshiri Moiloa Local Municipality, the Speaker of Ditsobotla Local Municipality and Kgosi Moiloa of Bahurutshe Ba Ga Moiloa Traditional Council, Local government councillors, representatives of the business sector, senior government officials and training providers.

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