

EPWP leads to employment for Bloemfontein woman



A Bloemfontein woman has secured permanent employment in the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI)

A Bloemfontein woman has secured permanent employment in the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) after having participated in the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

Annie De Wee was appointed as a security admin officer at DPWI's Bloemfontein Regional Office after completing the EPWP General Security Practice Learnership.

"The training I received from the EPWP learnership included proper use of security equipment, conducting security patrols and handling complaints and problems. The training covered both theoretical and practical aspects of security work," De Wee said.

She pointed out that upon completing the training, she applied for a vacant security admin position in the department

and was subsequently appointed to the position.

"I must state that before joining the EPWP, I had already completed Grade C security training. So during the interview, I displayed a wider understanding of security work," she said.

De Wee said she will never forget the day she received the good news that she had been placed.

"The phone call came through while I was at the doctor's office...as I was waiting for the doctor to attend to my son the phone rang and the official on the line told me I had been hired. I was so elated, I looked at my son and with a big smile I said: Mommy just got a job," De Wee said.

"I couldn't contain my excitement. I even shared the good news with the

doctor," she beamed.

Explaining her first day at work, De Wee said she was made to feel at home as her supervisor introduced her to officials within the unit and was also taken through some of the activities that were expected to be performed in her duties.

As a security officer in the department, some of the tasks that she performs include security vetting of officials, taking fingerprints of officials who have just been hired, manning the security control area and providing general security services in the department.

De Wee encouraged community members who are currently participating in the EPWP to use the programme to create a better life for themselves.

"I appeal to participants to not underestimate the value of the EPWP. I urge them to look beyond the monthly stipend but rather to focus on the bigger picture...they must use the EPWP as a springboard to reach for their dreams," she added.

The manager responsible for EPWP Training at DPWI's Bloemfontein Regional Office, Rose Dichakane, explained that De Wee was one of the 22 participants who were part of the training.

She said the training was initiated by the regional office and was funded by the National Skills Fund (NSF).

"Although the learnership was initially for a duration of 12 months, it was extended for an additional six months because at that time there was a shortage of security officers in our regional office.

"When a vacancy for one security officer was advertised, all the participants applied and after the interviews, De Wee was the one who was appointed," Dichakane said.

She elaborated that while De Wee was the only one appointed by DPWI, she had received reports that some learners had also obtained employment with various private companies in the Free State.

The manager responsible for the learnership in the department, Thapelo Sedupane, said De Wee's appointment to the department proved that EPWP does contribute to sustainable livelihoods.

The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) is one of Government's medium to long-term strategies to reduce unemployment and alleviate poverty through the creation of work opportunities using labour-intensive methods.

Eskom employee arrested for fraud, corruption

Serious Corruption Investigation have arrested a 36-year-old suspect for allegations of fraud and corruption and will appear in court.

It is alleged that around October 2022, a complaint was reported about fraud and corruption which was committed by an Eskom project manager as well as two other Eskom officials together with Luthando Engineering.

It is said that an amount of R25 000 was given to the project manager as an gratification by Luthando Engineering in order to be granted a one year tender contract to install lights at Eskom and around November 2022, the project manager gave the complainant another R25 000 for gratification.

The improprieties were reported to the Hawks' Serious Corruption Investigation. The Hawks' members worked on an operation which was conducted outside Kriel power station after information was received that the suspect will be transporting money yet again to the service provider.

During the operation, the suspect was searched and no money was found in his possession but R16 600 was found at his place of residence.

Provincial Head of the Hawks in Gauteng, Major General Ebrahim Kadwa commended the team for a breakthrough in addressing the scourge of corruption that is hampering economic growth in the country. – SAnews.gov.za

More resources for prevention of disasters at informal settlements

Human Settlements Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi and Members of the Executive Council (MINMEC) have agreed to allocate more resources for the prevention of disasters in informal settlements across the country.

The decision was taken during a meeting between the MINMEC of Human Settlements, Members of the Mayoral Councils (MMCs) of Human Settlements and Executive Mayors. The MINMEC has agreed to reprioritise 5% of the Informal Settlements Upgrading Partnership Grant to specifically go towards a community-led process of repositioning densely built informal settlement into clusters, instead of the current improvised order of these ever-growing settlements.

"These resources will help open pathways and roads for emergency vehicles and other services, including the provision of water, electricity and sewerage," Kubayi said.

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