

More Women Involved in the Construction Industry *story by Sane Khumalo and images by Gugu Mtshali*

The Department of Public Works in KwaZulu-Natal remains a leading implementing department of choice in infrastructure development as it continues to develop and train contractors by creating an enabling contracting environment that will allow and provide access to information, knowledge systems, training and mentorship in the construction world.

This time the focus is on the Southern Regional Office in collaboration with Sisonke Development Agency as it hosted a Contractor Training Workshop where approximately 50 emerging contractors, mostly women from uMzimkhulu and Ubuhlebezwe gathered at Morning View Bread and Breakfast (B&B). Sisonke District Office is a central point or office where potential contractors are to get information such as how to fill the tender documents inclusive of other role players such as CIDB and Occupational Health and Safety (OHS).



Mr Siphso Msomi: Assistant Manager – EPWP delivering his speech during Contractor Training Workshop

Mrs Jili, a 60-year old woman from Hlokozi area in Highflats, Sisonke is a testimony that the Department of Public Works has equipped her with more and valuable information on how to fill the tender documents as well as other construction related matters. She said “in the past I used to apply for tenders and do not get them because I was making mistakes when filling the tender documents, but after listening to all these presentations, I am not going to make those mistakes again”.



Mrs Jili: Owner of Old Power Trading

Mrs Jili owns a Grade 1 company called Old Power Trading which she started in 2010 as a means to fund tuition fees for her child who is now doing her last year at the University. Mrs Jili continued saying “I would like to thank the Department of Public Works by organising this workshop for us, I have learnt a lot”.



Contractors listening attentively to the presentations

A lot of information was shared to the contractors by officials from different sectors. In his introduction; Mr Sipho Msomi; Assistant Manager Extended Public Works

Programme (EPWP): Southern Region highlighted on the core of the workshop is aimed at assisting contractors and emerging contractors in extending additional education within their scope of work. “It is important to know how to apply for tenders and you must have confidence when applying for tenders. I am happy to see that there is a large number of women in this workshop” Mr Msomi said.



*Programme Director of the Day: Ms Nompumelelo Molefe
from Sisonke Development Agency*

Presentations were conducted by various representatives from KZN Department of Economic Development, CIDB and KZN Department of Public Works (Supply Chain Management, Expanded Public Works Programme and Occupational Health and Safety sections).