



public works

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MEDIA STATEMENT

MEDIA RELEASE FROM WARD 71 COUNCILLOR PREVAN VEDAN

CWP is cooking in Shallcross

The delicious smell of cakes baking matched the excitement in the air as the Community Work Programme (CWP) came to the Shallcross Community Hall on Thursday. New ward 71 councillor Previn Vedan brought the employment safety net programme to the people of his constituency. The ward includes Shallcross, Bottlebrush, Crossmoor and Moorton in Chatsworth. A group of 30 women was taught baking skills with ovens set up in the hall. "My work is to make life a little better for all our people. CWP supports poor citizens with livelihood skills by providing a basic level of income security through decent work," said Vedan. The programme was originally started by government to fight high unemployment and poverty. The councillor said that these were not handouts but real skills to help people help themselves. "The CWP does not replace government's social grants programme but adds a little bit extra to it," according to Vedan.

KZN MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works Ravi Pillay whose department oversees the provincial coordination of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) said, "We target unemployed and underemployed women and men of working age. This gives those willing and able to work the opportunity to do so, and afford them dignity and social inclusion." What makes the CWP different is that it is also a community programme located locally. Work must be 'useful work'. The Public Works director responsible for overall coordination of EPWP in KZN Xolani Xulu added, "The work must improve the area and the quality of life for the people living there." Other than this particular course brought in by Vedan, CWP involves fixing community assets like schools, road and parks, and setting up food gardens. Information obtained from the Department says that people in the area help to decide on the kind of work needed, and what is most urgent. "This could be looking after orphans and vulnerable children, helping sick people, assisting teachers at schools, looking after children while their parents are at work, and working with the local police to improve safety and reduce crime," added Pillay.

Councillor Vedan encouraged the CWP beneficiaries to use their skills to prepare foods that are as healthy as possible. High carb and high fat foods like amagwinya might be cheap and tasty but their health benefits are not good. Vedan is looking to get eThekweni Municipality to encourage community gardens in public open spaces to support food security in his constituency. The next time you see a food vendor in a CWP overall, spend a few rand to support a member of your community earn a dignified living.

ENDS

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