



WOFIRE NEWS

Saving Lives • Protecting the Environment • Restoring Dignity

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Working on Fire



Working on Fire - WOF TV News Channel



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WOF receives special mention at EPWP 2-day Colloquium

Working on Fire received a special mention at the two-day Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Colloquium on Youth and Persons with Disability held at Saint George's Hotel in Gauteng on 23-24 January. The colloquium was attended by a range of stakeholders from the youth and disability sectors as well as representatives of government departments and agencies.

Representatives from the youth sector and people with disabilities gave testimonies, challenges and possible solutions related to increasing their participation in the EPWP. Delegates also went into commissions to focus on strategies to increase participation.

Deputy Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Noxolo Kiviet, delivered the keynote address and implored stakeholders to find ways to increase youth and women participation in EPWP programmes.

She said the partnership between the EPWP and the Manufacturing, Engineering and Related



Deputy Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Noxolo Kiviet calls for Expanded Public Works Programmes to collaborate with the private sector and other partners to ensure that the participants are exposed to work and provided with skills

Services Sector Education and Training Authority (merSETA) was doing its best to close the skills gap in the country's ailing economy.

Minister Kiviet said, "Although the EPWP offers short-term employment,

income support provided in terms of wages to participants contributes towards reducing poverty levels. When participants are working in the EPWP, the daily wages they earn reduce the levels of poverty for them and their families.

"In the 2018/19 financial year, a total number of 62 participants successfully completed their trade tests and are now qualified as artisans. The EPWP is instrumental in creating employment at the grassroots level and equipping unemployed youth and people with disabilities with the necessary skills for the job market."

Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality reported that it had replicated the Working on Fire model in its plans to fight fires in informal settlements. Although on a much smaller scale compared to WOF, the municipality is recruiting and training young men and women who are responsible for extinguishing fires in the area.

Other speakers and presenters stressed the need for the government to implement strategies and plans to increase the participation of women, youths and people with disabilities. Youth comprise 55%, women 60%, and people with disabilities 2% of those who are currently benefitting from the EPWP programmes.

WOF celebrates 17 years of partnership for success

Working on Fire Executives, General Managers, Ground Operations and Regional Managers and Heads of Departments emerged from their four-day Management Meeting with the assurance that the programme will continue beyond 2021.

In his opening address, WOF Managing Director Trevor Abrahams assured management and participants that the programme would continue beyond next year. Government would make an announcement in due course.

"We have entered the final year of the current contract and we need

to be unified as a team. This is the final lap of the contract and not of WOF as a programme. I am confident that the programme will continue beyond the end of the current contract. Working as a team and in unionism is important for us and we need to profile and document the good work we have been doing since 2003.

"What we have achieved over the years is exceptional. We have made a difference to many people and made changes and transformation in all manner of things. Most of our firefighters come from disadvantaged backgrounds and this is their first job. We started focusing on fires and some of firefighters have



Working on Fire Executive Committee and senior management craft the way forward at the management workshop

moved to permanent jobs in the SAPS, SANDF and other government and private sectors. Some are entrepreneurs and starting companies.

"Our alumni are something we have to pride ourselves in. We have 30%

female firefighters and 51% women in management positions. I must emphasise that government has not lost appetite for the programme," Abrahams says.

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MD message

COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON

Greetings and compliments of the New Year! We have entered a new decade and I hope most of you have rested well and are re-energised and reinvigorated to continue with our work - making a difference in our respective communities, provinces and the society at large.

A special thanks to our firefighters who worked during the festive season, dealing with the raging fires in the Western Cape while others were celebrating Christmas and the dawn of the New Year. Yours is a sacrifice made to the country. We remain indebted to you and your families for this.

We have been monitoring the raging fires in Australia and our team is ready to be deployed to assist with the situation as and when requested by the Australian government through proper channels.

WOF is internationally renowned for its Integrated Fire Management Services, which include proactive fire awareness and putting fire

preventative measures in place. In 2019, WOF deployed 40 firefighters to Canada and they were recognised at home and abroad by the South African and Canadian governments respectively.

As you may be aware, our seven-year contract is coming to an end in March 2021 and it is important to emphasise that the government has assured us that the Working on Fire Programme will continue. We will keep open communication on the matter of the future model of the Working on Fire Programme.

Later this month, we are holding the Executive Strategic Session in Johannesburg and feedback will be given to employees following the session. We will also update all our stakeholders, the Presidency, Ministry and Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Portfolio Committee and the Board about the progress and challenges we are seized with.

It is worth noting that our alumni are growing with most of our participants leaving our programme to enter permanent employment in the private sector,



government sector, South African Police and nature conservation agencies. We hope to grow this even more going forward. This is part of making a difference in the country and contributing to the National Development Plan (NDP).

I have to emphasise that we must at all times adhere to the policies guiding us, especially when it comes to issues of discipline. We have had serious challenges about discipline, especially regarding issues of sexual abuse and violence against women and children. WOF subscribes to a policy of zero tolerance with regard to gender-based violence and any form of violence in the workplace.

Although we did not completely meet our WOF Kids Care Packages targets this year, the project was still a big success and we will endeavour to make it even more memorable this time around. I would like to thank our partners and stakeholders who sponsored our first Golf Day fundraiser event which resulted in scores of our firefighters' children receiving Christmas gifts.

I would also like to wish those of our participants who have taken up our ABET programme all the best when writing exams in March in pursuit of their matric certificates.

We have committed to strengthening our support to provinces and strengthening our function through EXCO sub-committees.

I hope that we will all put the shoulder to the wheel to showcase our work, ensure our brand is visible in all platforms and stake our claim as a company.

Trevor Abrahams

Important letter to the reader:

Greetings to all our loyal and new readers and compliments of the new year. Your support over the years has been an integral part of our success and we hope to further strengthen our working relationship in this new year.

It is that time of the year when people are implementing or working on their New Year's resolutions in the hope of bettering themselves, their finances, relationships or businesses. Well, this editorial team has also set itself some New Year's resolutions, mainly to improve our newsletter to give you, our reader, a fun, informative and inspiring newsletter every month.

In our efforts to engage our readers more, this newsletter will develop a new look and feel starting next month. Among the fresh features will be our new word puzzle which will encourage educational discussions about firefighting terms, equipment and language.

We will also begin publishing your opinions and comments on issues covered in our newsletter, along with a picture of yourself (if you want your picture to be added).

Readers are encouraged to send their comments to comms@wofire.co.za [please write 'Reader's Letter' in the subject line].

Look out for these changes and more over the next few months. We look forward to hearing from you.



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Celebrating 17 years of partnership



Managing Director, Trevor Abrahams, Chief Operations Officer, Shane Christian with National General Manager, Martin Bolton handed awards of recognition to Most Outstanding General Manager (GM), Phumza Dyantyi, Most Outstanding Ground Operations Manager (GOM), Antoinette Jini and Most Outstanding Regional Manager, Bongani Mashiane, Most Improved GOM, Manase Mpholoane and Most Improved RM, Sello Kobe. Most Improved GM, Noluvuyo Mashologu (insert).

The Working on Fire programme's overall contribution to ensuring that our country was safe and protected from runaway wildfires over the past 17 years has been a major success and Management would strongly urge staff to celebrate the 17 years of partnership for success WOF has experienced since the start of the programme in 2003.

"Through our Integrated Fire Management Services, we have been able to successfully respond to more than 2 000 wildfires annually, ensuring that the damage to the environment and

property was minimised. Our Fire Awareness education campaigns in communities throughout South Africa have impacted on more than two million people over the past 17 years, ensuring that these communities remain fire safe," he says.

A key focus over the next financial year will be to fix problems with our payroll system, to prioritise safety and also to eradicate gender-based violence and sexual harassment in the workplace.

Multiple fires suppressed in first month of the Western Cape fire season

In the first month of the 2019/2020 summer fire season in the Western Cape, 25 fires were successfully extinguished.

Ground teams were dispatched 107 times to support our partners – local municipalities, Fire Protection Associations and large landowners – in suppressing the fires. The Vrolijkheid Team was dispatched the most, 11 times, followed by the Hottentots Holland Team which was sent out nine times. Four Hotshot crews were dispatched 13 times. The Southern Cape was the busiest area and

accounted for 15 of the 25 fires and 83 of the dispatches of ground teams. An estimated 20 807 hectares of land were burnt in the Western Cape in December, of which 19 000 hectares were reportedly in the Southern Cape.

WOF aerial support flew a total number of 224 hours in December. Again, the majority of these hours (164 hours) were flown during operations in the Southern Cape.



Limakatso Khalianyane, Western Cape Provincial Communication Officer



Ground crew teams were dispatched 107 times in December

Fire awareness campaign for 2020 starts well



Eastern Cape teams get ready to spread the fire safety message

The WOF Eastern Cape Fire Awareness Department has been conducting workshops for different teams around the province since the start of 2020.

According to EC Fire Awareness Training Officer Teko Mooki, these workshops are aimed at preparing firefighters to conduct quality fire awareness campaigns in schools and surrounding communities. Mooki says that these workshops ensure that firefighters understand the CAPS curriculum and how each topic is to be approached in a given term for a given grade.

"This year, we aim to reach as many schools as we can so that the message can be spread all over in order for people

to know all the causes of fires, how to prevent them and what to do in case of fires," explains Mooki.

He says conducting fire awareness activities also raises awareness of the risks of wildfires and empowers those at risk to take responsibility for their risks.

"Over 90% of unwanted fires are caused by human negligence. However, not all fires are bad. Fire is required to maintain ecosystem function and, under controlled conditions, can be used as an efficient land management tool in most of South Africa," says Mooki.



Nthabiseng Mokone, Eastern Cape Provincial Communication Officer

Community receives fire safety education

Working on Fire Limpopo's Community Fire Awareness Officer Sello Matlhare conducted a FireSafe presentation in Hermansdal village as part of the campaign to create fire safe communities in Limpopo.

Residents welcomed the opportunity to be empowered with fire safety tips. During his presentation, Matlhare educated the community members about methods that can be used to prevent and manage fires in the community. "The attendance was great and the

support that we received from the tribal office was very good. This village is in a remote area and it gives me honour to extend our services to them," says Matlhare.

Matlhare will be doing a follow-up fire safety workshop with the community members, where he will inform the community about risk identification and mitigation.



Matema Gwangwa, Limpopo Provincial Communication Officer

Mpumalanga CFAO assists Barberton Correctional Centres



Mpumalanga Community Fire Awareness Training Officer, Mbuso Siwela, points out various risks and hazards at the Barberton Correctional Centre

The Mpumalanga Community Fire Awareness Training Officer, Mbuso Siwela, visited the Department of Correctional Services' Barberton Correctional Centres during December 2019 and January 2020.

Siwela visited Barberton Maximum Security Prison on 12 December 2019, where he assisted Bheki Ngobeni, the centre's Occupational Health and Safety Officer, in pointing out various fire risks and hazards that could endanger the staff and inmates at the centre.

Siwela and Ngobeni toured the centre to conduct a risk assessment, which will help the centre to avoid and mitigate unwanted fire disasters.

Siwela also visited the Barberton Youth Centre on 14 and 17 January

2020, where he helped prison officials to conduct an emergency evacuation procedure (fire drill).

During the first visit, Siwela presented a workshop, with the range of topics including emergency assembly points, fire extinguishers and personal safety. The second visit included a practical exercise of an emergency evacuation procedure.

In carrying out his mission of raising awareness in the community about the dangers of veld and forest fires, Siwela is a regular guest on programmes on community safety on Igwalagwala FM and Barberton Community Radio.



Amanda Mthembu, Mpumalanga Provincial Communication Officer



Sello Matlhare conducts a FireSafe presentation for community members at Hermansdal village

WOF assist firefighters with the back-to-school rush

Every year, parents all over the country scramble to get their children ready to go back to school, buying stationery, uniforms and backpacks.

Knowing this, Working on Fire wanted to reduce the stress and burden on our firefighters this year, through its WOF Kids Care Packages initiative. The WOF Kids Care Packages initiative started in 2018 as WOF management's gesture of appreciation to show our participants how they were valued by gifting their children.

This initiative is delivered by the WOF Social Development Department and forms part of WOF's social responsibility as, by collecting funds to assist participants' children, we demonstrate one of our values of 'Making a Difference'.

Because education is so important to our participants, our focus was to give their schoolgoing children stationery that would assist with meeting their school requirements. During the 2019 festive season and in January this year, we distributed more



WOF provided over 1 500 firefighters' children with school stationery

than 1 500 WOF Kids Care Packages to nominated WOF children.

Working on Fire would like to thank all the employees who contributed towards this cause and a special thanks to our sponsors who helped put a smile on the faces of 1 575 children who received the WOF Kids Care Packages.

Written by Editorial team

Happy meals and happy faces thanks to WOF Kids project



450 firefighters' children were spoiled with WOF Kids Care Packages

About 450 children of firefighters in the Western Cape received a treat in December, thanks to the WOF Kids project.

The first recipients of the packages were the children of firefighters from the Limietberg Team. They were treated to a McDonald's Happy Meal. Nicole Heaviren, a manager at McDonald's in Paarl, says this was a token of appreciation from the food outlet to show support to the team for their continued dedication to keeping Paarl's residents safe from fires.

The little ones were transported to the outlet with the generous assistance of Centurion Tours, which were part of the project.

Donors were not shy to reach out into their pockets for the cause. Before Christmas, each team's children in the province received packages that included clothes, sanitary products, stationery and snacks.



Limakatso Khalianyane, Western Cape Provincial Communication Officer

MPU Social Development Department rolls out WOF Kids Care Packages



Dullstroom participants and their children receive their WOF Kids Care Packages

The Mpumalanga Social Development Department officially rolled out the WOF Kids Care Package initiative as they handed out gifts to participants' children.

The province's Social Development Practitioner, Makoloi Tele, visited various bases, handing out the gifts. Each package provides essential personal care basics and educational material and includes various items appropriate to the children's ages.

Infants and toddlers received packages with bibs, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap and consumable goodies. Older children received stationery, which included glue sticks, dictionaries and writing material, to assist them in the back to school rush.

The WOF Kids Care Package initiative is part of Working on Fire's social responsibility. Various staff and units demonstrate the value of 'Making a Difference' by collecting funds to contribute to the gift of hope.

The WOF Mpumalanga Provincial Office managed to raise R4,172 from an Employee Wellness Day where staff participated in various sporting activities. The Province also raised funds through sponsorship from various donors, including R5,000 from Rooikat Liquor Stores, and provincial activities such as the National Office Golf Day, which raised R10,500.



Amanda Mthembu, Mpumalanga Provincial Communication Officer

WOF supports firefighters' families with Kids Care Packages



Kids Care Packages were distributed in Theunissen

The Working on Fire programme in the Free State assisted the children of firefighters, supplying them with Kids Care Packages that are age appropriate for children between nought and 18 years of age, containing stationery, essential care items, educational toys and sweets.

The project was developed to introduce a gift of hope to show appreciation to the thousands of firefighters working in the WOF programme.

The project allows WOF to live its core value of 'Making a Difference' and shows its participants that they are appreciated and valued in the province

and that their hard work is noticed. This year, the province was assisted by a number of generous donors who contributed some of the contents of the packages that were distributed to the children.

"It has been an honour and a privilege to have had the opportunity to be part of this project that restores the dignity of many and assists them by providing their children with the care packages," says Social Development Practitioner, Duduetsang Kolo.



Wayne Mokhehi, Free State Provincial Communication Officer

Mamre Team finds comfort in gardening after losing a crew leader

After the unexpected passing of their crew leader, Winston Samuels, the Mamre Team in the Western Cape decided to keep his legacy alive and named a newly developed garden after their fallen leader.

This decision followed a food security training programme where the team was taught to implement a garden to ensure that they had access to safe, nutritious food.

WOF Western Cape's Social Development Officer, Colleen Paulus, says the week-long training was therapeutic for the team as they were still mourning Samuels's death.

"It allowed their comradeship to be strengthened and for them to start a beneficial project together as a team," she says.

During the training, the team collected brown leaves and manure and



The Mamre Team names their food garden after their fallen team member

constructed garden beds to ensure water retention and to protect the sandy soil from wind erosion.



Limakatso Khalianyane, Western Cape Provincial Communication Officer

Education has no limit nor timeframe



Abel Dikhutso celebrates his progress towards obtaining his Matric Certificate

Abel Dikhutso is a young firefighter at Marakele Base in Thabazimbi who is on track to achieving his matric certificate.

Dikhutso, who joined WOF in September 2019, can't stop praising WOF for supporting the youth of South Africa and encouraging them to develop themselves by studying further.

"I'm from a disadvantaged community where peer pressure is one of the main factors that are destroying the youth in the society," says Dikhutso.

He registered for six subjects at ABET Level 4 (Matric) in 2019 and managed to pass four subjects at the end of last year.

"It was not easy juggling the exams and my daily duties as a firefighter, especially during the fire season. However, I'm proud of my achievement and have re-registered for the two subjects that I failed," says Dikhutso.

"I'm a goal-driven youth and will not allow anything to stand in my way. With WOF by my side I know I can conquer anything," says Dikhutso, who believes it's not about how many times you fail, but about not giving up and being positive.



Matema Gwangwa, Limpopo Provincial Communication Officer

Winburg Team creates food security for learners

Working on Fire participants are passionate about promoting food security and healthy living in disadvantaged communities throughout the country. In the same spirit, the WOF Winburg Team recently commenced with a food security project to benefit the learners attending the local Winburg Pre-Primary School.

The team prepared the area where the garden will be located, removing all the weeds and working the soil in preparation for the various seeds that will be planted. All the crops that will be grown will be used in the school's feeding programme that provides nutritious meals to the most vulnerable learners.

"As a social development project, we are assisting the school by creating this garden for them that will eventually feed the kids in the school. We hope that with this project there will be no more hungry stomachs," says Vuyani Klaas, Winburg's Type 2 Crew Leader.



The Winburg Team preparing the site where the garden will be established



Wayne Mokhethi, Free State Provincial Communication Officer

Firefighter's hard work recognised

Last year ended on a high note for Luthabo Genu, who was named the best firefighter for 2019 in the Cederberg region by the Greater Cederberg Fire Protection Association.

Genu, who joined Working on Fire in 2018, received a certificate and says the accolade came as a shock to him as he had never expected it.

"The recognition made me happy and gave me the courage and the encouragement to continue working harder this year," he says.

Genu says he is grateful to WOF for giving him the firefighting skills that got

him the recognition. He says he would like to pass his heartfelt gratitude to the Greater Cederberg FPA and wishes his accolade will serve as a motivation to his colleagues to go the extra mile when doing their jobs.

Greater Cederberg FPA manager Charl du Plessis says the certificates were given to individuals who showed unwavering dedication during the previous fire season and throughout the year as they prepared for the fire season.



Limakatso Khalianyane, Western Cape Provincial Communication Officer



Luthabo Genu's unwavering dedication to his job earned him a certificate of honour

Former firefighter can't thank the programme enough

Khuthazo Mhletywa has come a long way from the humble town of Cala in the Eastern Cape where he was born. This zealous young man joined the WOF family as a firefighter in 2014 at Elliot Base.

Prior to joining the programme, he did his National Diploma in Human Resources Management from 2008 to 2010.

"After my studies, getting a job was not easy. That's why I saw it as a blessing when I heard that WOF would be recruiting in Elliot," says Mhletywa.

He says he felt lucky to get an opportunity as a firefighter in the team and he worked very hard every day.

"Every job that I took in the Group prepared me for better career prospects," he says. "In June 2016, I was appointed as the Human Resources Assistant in the Eastern Cape provincial office."

His hard work in that position was rewarded in May 2019 when he was appointed the Human Resources Practitioner at the WOF Limpopo provincial office. As of January 2020, Mhletywa will serve at the Eastern Cape provincial office as the second Human Resources Practitioner.

"The journey has been tough, rocky and exciting sometimes and, with passion and hard work, I managed to be where I am today," Mhletywa says. "That made me so proud of myself and I realised that it's always good to be patient in life. Be a dreamer, aim high, always be someone who is willing to learn and face any challenges that you come across because they are the key in determining and preparing you for future."



Nthabiseng Mokone, Eastern Cape Provincial Communication Officer



Khuthazo Mhletywa says that the skills obtained at WOF helped him up the ladder of success

Rugby star to pursue coaching course

Firefighter Olwethu Nkotswana of the Wedela Team is attending a rugby coaching course in February after raising the money to fund it.

"I have been accepted to do the course and this will help me take the sporting code to remote towns in the country," says the fly-half for the senior Pirates women's rugby club.

In December, Nkotswana participated in the 50th Emirates Airlines Dubai Sevens Invitational Rugby tournament at The Sevens Stadium in Dubai.

Her team made it to the semi-finals of the tournament, which featured highly competitive teams from USA, Australia and New Zealand.

"I learned lots of things during the tournament, hence I am pursuing the coaching course in rugby. I am not retiring from playing the sport," says Nkotswana, vowing her undying loving for the sport.

Nkotswana says the coaching course will enable her to share her experience and skills with upcoming young female rugby players. She says it is a privilege to



Olwethu Nkotswana played in a prestigious rugby tournament in Dubai in December

do the course and to have the chance to develop and popularise the sport in the villages and towns.



Parapara Makgahlela, Gauteng Provincial Communication Officer

Firefighter is optimistic about the future

Thieko Nyila, a First Aider from the Thaba'Nchu Team in the Free State, joined Working on Fire in 2016. After serving the team as a firefighter, she later received first aid training and was appointed as the First Aider for her team.

Nyila was unable to complete her matric exams in 2015 as a result of falling ill during her examinations. However, driven by her desire to give her two-year-old the brightest future, she redid matric in 2016 and passed with a bachelor's pass. She only received the actual matric certificate at the end of 2019.

She says, "I am very thankful to WOF for providing me with an income. This ensures not only me but also my family is taken care of. I use my stipend to improve my circumstances and with it I have redone my matric. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage my colleagues in the programme to use the income they earn to also improve their lives."



Thieko Nyila, from Thaba'Nchu Base

Armed with her matric certificate, Nyila plans to study further and hopefully start a career in social work. She is in the process of acquiring her code 10 driver's licence to further improve her employability in the near future.



Wayne Mokhehi, Free State Provincial Communication Officer

Marathon medal for WOF participant on debut

Khangwelo Ragwala is a 30-year-old firefighter who hails from Matshavhawe village, Makhado, in the Mopani District of Limpopo. He developed a passion of running while growing up there.

"I love running because it helps to keep me fit and healthy. I started running long distance in my teenage years, because I wanted to keep myself fit," says Ragwala, a firefighter at Makhado Base.

He started participating as a boy in local 5 km and 10 km distance events, soon improving in the competitions and taking prizes home.

"When I heard of the Soweto Marathon, I decided to attempt my first

42,2 km marathon just to test my stamina and to get the feel of how tough it is to run such a long distance," Ragwala says.

On his first attempt, Ragwala managed to complete the race in 2 hours 33 minutes and obtain a bronze medal.

"This was a wonderful experience for me and I'm looking forward to competing in the 90 km marathon in Durban. It has always been my dream to see myself competing on that level, and I know I will conquer," he says.



Matema Gwangwa, Limpopo Provincial Communication Officer



Khangwelo Ragwala celebrates his first medal in the Soweto marathon

Former Sasol participants join Sasol Secunda Fire Brigade



Former WOF participants, Vincent Mofokeng and Thobani Mdladla, are now junior firefighters at the Sasol Secunda Fire Brigade

Working on Fire continues to restore the dignity of the disadvantaged youth in South Africa, by recruiting them into what has been a very successful Expanded Public Works Programme and offering them skills and opportunities that many have been able to use as stepping stones to their preferred careers.

Two such former participants from the Sasol Base, Vincent Mofokeng and Thobani Mdladla, were recently appointed as junior firefighters in the Sasol Secunda Fire Brigade. A proud moment, not just for them and their families, but for Working on Fire and its base partners.

Mofokeng, originally from the Free State, was recruited at the Sasol Base in 2017. Reflecting on how WOF taught him discipline and a passion for the firefighting industry, he says, "I am now permanently employed, which will assist me in my future plans of buying a house for my family."

Mofokeng hopes to rise through the ranks and eventually become a fire chief.

Mdladla was recruited at the Sasol Base in March 2018 and was in the WOF programme for a year when he was appointed at the Sasol Secunda Fire Brigade.

Mdladla credits WOF with teaching him patience and understanding of life in general. He encourages participants and the youth to complete their Grade 12, as that will open doors for them.

The two firefighters and their team are tasked with battling structural fires but will also work with WOF participants in fighting veld fires, as the Sasol Secunda Fire Brigade is a base partner to the WOF Sasol Team.



Amanda Mthembu, Mpumalanga Provincial Communication Officer

Former Dullstroom participant secures social work learnership

Working on Fire continues to be a stepping stone for its participants, with participants regularly exiting the programme for greener pastures.

Such is the case with Pholani Ndlovu, a participant from Dullstroom Base, who secured a year-long learnership to study full-time this year.

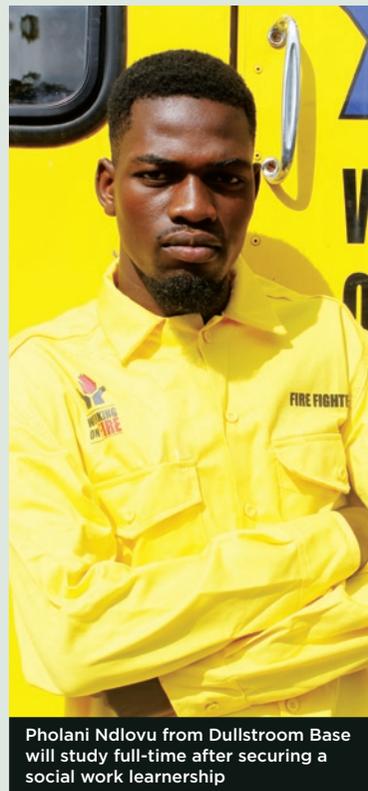
Ndlovu leaves the programme to study social work, a career path he has long dreamed about.

A native of Kabokweni in Nelspruit, Ndlovu was recruited in Dullstroom in 2019, with the hope of gaining work experience instead of sitting idly at home.

"It was always a dream to study further and when the opportunity came about, I could not let it pass me by," Ndlovu says of the learnership.

Ndlovu began classes on 13 January 2020 at the Mbombela Stadium. The classes entail theoretical and practical exercises that will enhance his skills in the job market.

"I thank Working on Fire for the opportunity and I will miss my colleagues and the teamwork we continuously practiced on the fire line and at the base," Ndlovu says.



Pholani Ndlovu from Dullstroom Base will study full-time after securing a social work learnership



Amanda Mthembu, Mpumalanga Provincial Communication Officer

EC Working on Fire provides 40 young people with job opportunities



Unemployed youth came in their numbers for the recruitment

More than 700 young people from Libode and nearby villages made their way to the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) offices in Libode near Mthatha this week to try to make the cut and be recruited to become veld and forest firefighters within the Working on Fire programme.

Working on Fire is an Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) aimed at providing poverty and income relief through work opportunities. The programme resides under and is funded by the DEFF.

According to the General Manager of WOF in the Eastern Cape, Phumza Dyantyi, the recruitment process started around 9am on Tuesday, 21 January 2020 where the clearly determined young people had to undergo the strenuous fitness tests which included a 2,4 km run in under 12 minutes for males and 14 minutes for females, 40 push-ups, 40 sit-ups and 8 pull-ups for both males and females, each set to be completed in just one minute.

Dyantyi said that it took the whole day for all the candidates to undergo

the fitness test and the successful ones had to do the interviews on the next day.

"The huge number that turned out for this recruitment shows how young people are in need of jobs, especially in rural areas," says Dyantyi.

She says that in the present negative economic climate, this was how WOF carried out the government's mandate of job creation and skills development for the youth, especially in marginalised communities.

"This is also part of the WOF objective to develop skills for the young men and women in the province," she says.

Dyantyi says that after the fitness test and interview process, the 40 young people who performed the best would "soon undergo training at the Nelspruit Training Academy, where specialised veld and forest firefighting will be facilitated."

Dyantyi says this opportunity will help alleviate poverty in the homes of these new firefighters.



Nthabiseng Mokone, Eastern Cape Provincial Communication Officer

Venturing into entrepreneurship



Lebohlang runs her own funeral parlour

Lebohlang Motau, of the Leeuwfontein Team, is a businesswoman who owns a funeral parlour in Moloto village in Mpumalanga.

"I registered my business two years ago with the tiny stipend I earned in the programme. I saw a niche and exploited it for a living," she says.

Although people tried to discourage her and mocked her for venturing into the business, Motau ignored them and today provides essential funeral parlour services to local people. She says her services include burying the deceased and marketing burial policies although she faces challenges to obtain full underwriting rights on insurance policies.

"My struggle is to expand the business in this region of Nkangala. The space is quite competitive but I will become fully successful," says the enthusiastic Motau.

She says that she helps her workers after hours to ensure the smooth running of the business. On average, they handle 15 to 20 burials per month.

While some might see running a funeral parlour as taboo for a young black woman, to her it is a legitimate business.

She says, "I am proud to be a business person".



Parapara Makgahlela, Gauteng Provincial Communication Officer

Let's keep 2020 Super Safe



JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Wednesday
Saturday
Friday
Monday
Saturday
Wednesday,
Sunday
Friday
Monday
Tuesday
Monday
Wednesday
Thursday

1 January: _____ New Year's Day
21 March: _____ Human Rights Day
10 April: _____ Good Friday
13 April: _____ Family Day
27 April: _____ Freedom Day
1 May: _____ Workers Day
16 June: _____ Youth Day
9 August: _____ National Women's Day
10 August: _____ Public Holiday
24 September: _____ Heritage Day
16 December: _____ Day of Reconciliation
25 December: _____ Christmas Day
26 December: _____ Day of Goodwill



Safety is everyone's business!

Please report unsafe operations to your direct manager or to the FREE and ANONYMOUS Ethics Line.

Call: 0800 111 528 | SMS: 33490 | wof@whistleblowing.co.za



environmental affairs
Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

