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Department of Public Works
North West Provincial Government
Republic of South Africa

CONSTRUCTION HAILED A CAREER OF CHOICE

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The North West department of Public Works on Monday 20 August 2007, continued with its drive to encourage high school learners across the province to consider careers in the construction industry.

This move saw approximately 40 learners from the Metibong and Chris Hani Secondary schools in Jourbeton being exposed to the different career opportunities available for young people in the built industry. The learners toured the construction site of the R 6.7 million Thea Merafe Primary School in the area.

This was part of the National Construction Week campaign, an initiative of the Department to promote the profile of the construction sector and to give young learners the opportunity to experience a wide range of opportunities available in the built environment.

Addressing the learners during the occasion, Project Manager for Multi Disciplinary Construction Company (MDCC) Herman Reneke outlined the requirements needed for learners who wished to enter the sector.

Reneke said the industry is facing a severe skills shortage and there was a need to train more young South Africans in the industry.

“The industry has been experiencing skills shortages for many years as strong economic growth, population growth and changing demographics continue to drive the demand for infrastructural development,” he said.

Also at the event was Lebogang Moinwe of Palace Consultants, the company responsible for the electrical wiring at the site.

Moinwe encouraged the female learners to take advantage of the opportunities availed by government by entering the built industry.

“Today, learners seeking a career in the industry have more choices than ever before with so many career options available,” she said.

“To ensure the industry is able to keep pace we need more apprentices and trainees and employers are willing to give young people a start.”

Learners hailed this move by the department as very helpful on their part for the purposes of securing a brighter future.

“I never knew there were so many fields within the construction industry. I am most interested in Quantity Surveying and will consider taking it as a career path,” said 16-year-old Neziswa Methuko, who is in Grade 10.

“It was interesting to learn that there is a wide range of opportunities available for us as young people especially looking at the recent unemployment figures,” she added.

The department will wrap up the campaign next week when learners from the central region tour the construction site for the R70 million Health Care Centre in Itsoseng Township near Lichtenburg.

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