



the **dpw**

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

Learners with passion for mathematics and science subjects have been urged-once again- to seriously consider careers in the built environment....

DATE: MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2007

Learners with passion for mathematics and science subjects have been urged-once again- to seriously consider careers in the built environment in an effort to address the “high shortage” of skilled a workforce in the industry.

And this appeal also includes learners in rural areas.

More than 30 matric learners from two rural North West high schools, Tong in Ganyesa and Huhudi in Vryburg converged and toured the construction site of a R4.7 million hospital revitalization project (Ganyesa Hospital) as part of the National Construction Week campaign.

The campaign which runs until August 31 aims 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.

Speaking to the learners during the event, the director of CSKO Architects, Riaan Beetge, raised concerns about the fact that the industry was running short of skilled professionals.

“This problem has led to a situation whereby the country has to recruit foreign professionals. We need to encourage the learners to consider joining the sector because it is full of opportunities,” he said.

While the industry is regarded as the fastest growing in the country, some of its labour disciplines including engineering and artisanship have been rendered scarce and are among those prioritised under the Joint Initiative for Priority Skills Acquisition (JIPSA).

Launched by the Presidency early last, JIPSA aims to address skills shortages in order to achieve the objectives of the Accelerated and Shared Initiative for South Africa (AsgiSA) to speed up economic growth to 6% by 2010 and to halve unemployment by 2014.

“Learners need to know from an early age which skills are the most sought after and which careers have plenty of opportunities so that they can take informed decisions about their future,” Beetge said.

One of the learners, 18-year-old Boitumelo Esau said the campaign had played an instrumental role in helping her consider the right profession as a possible career path.

“I was discouraged to go into engineering seeing that it is mostly male-dominated but now that there are a lot of opportunities particularly for us women, I will take an informed decision my future career,” she said.

Issued by Communication Directorate
Contact Person: **Matshube Mfoloe**
Contact Number: (018) 387 2447 / 0823054594
E-mail: mmfoloe@nwpg.gov.za

