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

North West rural learners urged to pursue careers in the construction sector during a project site visit as part on *National Construction Week* campaign.

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An initiative to encourage learners to pursue careers in the construction sector also aimed at profiling the field of study as very accessible, rewarding and attractive, kicked-off with a guided tour by high school pupils of a the R200 million hospital project in North West.

The visit today by rural Grade 12 learners from Khayaletu High School, near Rustenburg was organised by the department of Public Works and would be rolled out to three regions between Thursday and August 31 in celebration of National Construction Week.

The campaign aims to promote the seemingly ``unattractive and uninspiring'' image of the construction sector, so as to give learners the opportunity to experience and learn about opportunities available in built environment and construction sector.

More than 30 learners were taken on a project site visit of the multi-million rand Moses Kotane Hospital which is under construction in Ledig village near Sun City.

Professionals in the built industry were on hand to talk learners through a wide range of opportunities in construction and to went to great lengths to dispel the believe that construction industry was the domain for men only.

The Director of A-3 Architects Ltd, Marianus De Jager urged learners, especially women to seriously consider careers in the construction industry.

He said frequent visits by high school pupils overseen and monitored by professional in the built-environment will help stimulate interests among young South Africans to consider career paths in construction.

De Jager said he was confident that such an approach would in the long run address the skills shortage in the country.

The managing director of Black Hawk Construction, Tebogo Makgaka, said the democratic government has put measures in place systems to enable any learners irrespective of race or background to pursue a career in any field.

“There is no reason why we should not produce engineers or architects from the current generation of pupils. Careers in these fields are very possible and the we have a duty to create an interest and an awareness about the rewards in the building industry,” he said.

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