

## **Deputy Minister urges learners to take advantage of opportunities available at DPW**

By Hlanganane Hlongoane

The Department of Public Works (DPW) Deputy Minister (DM) Mr Jeremy Cronin, MP has encouraged learners to study mathematics and science in order to take advantage of the opportunities available in the Department to pursue studies in engineering and science faculties. The DM was addressing over 1700 pupils in Welkom, Free State on 24 August 2018.

The pupils from various schools in Matjhabeng were taking part in a Career Exhibition held at Leseding Technical School in Welkom, Thabong Township under Lejweleputswa District Municipality. The Department hosted the Exhibition in order to expose young people to scarce built industry career fields through the provision of career guidance.

During his address, the DM advised learners from Leseding Technical School and five (5) neighbouring high schools within the Matjhabeng Local Municipality about the significance of education for young people as the Department is committed to harnessing the potential of young people. He also emphasized that the Department nurtures young people through its winter schools programme to entice them to study towards built industry career fields in addition to bursaries worth R130 000 per learner that the Department offers towards the learners' tertiary studies.

The Professional Services Deputy Director-General in the Department Ms Lydia Bici and Professional Services Chief Director Ms Vangile Manzini also warned learners against the indecent exposure of blessers who prey on young girls. The learners were urged to put more focus in their education in order to strive for the best and make their families proud and uplift their communities.

The Deputy Minister also highlighted the Push Strategy which aims to provide enough competent and skilled professionals in the built environment through supported and

funded secondary and tertiary education programmes. He stated that the Department has trained qualified artisans, engineers, architects, surveyors and construction managers.

In celebration of Women's Month, the Deputy Minister congratulated the 6 learners (5 of them are female) who will be participating in the Department's Schools Programme. The Grade 10 learners: Mr Karabo Tigedi, Ms Thuto Khojane, Ms Xolelwa Ndara, Ms Palesa Sebetoane, Ms Dendy Mohlalaka, and Ms Nothemba Djalivani will be assisted by the Department throughout their secondary school provided they continue to achieve nothing less than 65% in their Grade 10 – 12 subjects. The aim is to persuade the learners to study towards built environment courses after the successful completion of their Grade 12.