

Minister De Lille awards bursaries to matriculants to study in various built environment fields

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By Thokozani Ngema and Christina Lewela

An ecstatic matriculant from the Mpumalanga province has revealed how her mother shed tears of joy when she saw her preparing to travel to Pretoria, to receive a full bursary from the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure. Sharon Nyathikazi, a matriculant from Inkunzi Secondary School in Mpumalanga, is one of the dozens of learners who received bursaries from the Department, during a ceremony held today, 9 January 2020 at Salvokop in Pretoria.

Speaking at the ceremony, Public Works and Infrastructure Minister Patricia De Lille, MP confirmed that the bursary covers all university costs including tuition fees, residential fees, meals, textbooks, project and compulsory study resources, as well as a monthly allowance. The Department's bursary accommodates the following study areas; Electrical, Mechanical, Marine and Civil Engineering; Property Studies, Real Estate, Actuarial Science, Quantity Surveying, Construction Project Management, Landscape Architecture, Architecture, Town and Urban Planning.

Sharon Nyathikazi says she realised early that in order to pursue her tertiary studies she would have to attempt to acquire study loans since her mother is unemployed. However, when she was selected by the Department back in 2017 while in Grade 10, as one of the students who would be assisted with their mathematics and sciences and stand a chance to receive a bursary after completing Grade 12; she vowed not to waste that opportunity.

Nyathikazi plans to enrol at the University of Cape Town to study towards a Bachelor of Science in Construction Studies degree. Minister De Lille congratulated all the bursary recipients and cautioned them against wasting what they have been given, adding that while these beneficiaries have been selected for this opportunity, there are still many young people out there who are struggling to get similar opportunities.

During the ceremony, artisans and professionals who participated in the Artisan Development Programme and in the Young Professional Programme were also recognised. The event also recognised DPWI staff members that have gone through the Internal Audit Technicians programme.