

# *The New Age, 17 January 2017, Page 24* Government offers bursaries

A TOTAL of 40 pupils who passed matric in 2016 will have their university studies paid for by the Department of Public Works' Schools Programme.

One of them is Olwethu Bitterhout from the Eastern Cape who says adopting the habit of working hard from an early age is what secured a bright future for an aspirant mechanical engineer.

Bitterhout matriculated from Solomon Mahlangu Secondary School, earning seven distinctions.

"The only way I managed to get good results was through hard work. I have been working hard since primary school. I have always been a top achiever. It became a habit to me.

"I just adapted to the processes of studying hard. Being a top learner in my region is not surprising. I have always passed all my subjects from primary to

high school," the 18-year-old Bitterhout said last week.

He said maintaining good grades throughout his school years was motivated by a fear of disappointing his parents. "My parents see me as someone who will change their lives."

Bitterhout hopes to give back to his community once he completes his studies and establishes a career for himself. "Everyone in my community contributed to the person I am today."

Bitterhout will pursue his post-matric qualification at the University of Cape Town this year.

Also to benefit from the programme are two young women from the EPP Mhinga Secondary School in Malamulele in Limpopo who expressed their gratitude to the Department of Public Works. Both Hlavutelo Baloyi and

Saqwadi Chavalala passed matric with seven distinctions.

The department has made it possible for them to go to university this year as their parents would not have been able to afford fees for the courses they chose. They have enrolled with the University of Cape Town to study BSc actuarial science.

Chavalala, 18, said she was introduced to the Public Works bursary programme when she was in Grade 11 because of the good grades she achieved in Grade 10, and that she has maintained the high standard since then.

She was brought up by a single mother who is also taking care of Chavalala's three cousins. Although her mother works, Chavalala said she could not afford university fees. -South African Government Agency.



**BRIGHT FUTURE:** Minister Angie Motshekga celebrates the matric results with pupils in Midrand. PICTURE: HERBERT MATIMGA