

Bursary opens doors

Refiloe Lijane (17) has big plans for her future thanks to the bursary she has received from the Department of Public Works.

Refiloe lives in the Matlwangtlwang informal settlement in Steynsrus in the Free State. She lives with her grandparents and cousins and her mother works as a domestic worker. She matriculated from the Matlwangtlwang Secondary School in 2016 and plans to study towards a degree in Property Studies at Wits University.

She participated in the Public Works Winter Schools programme when she was in Gr. 10. She is one of 40 beneficiaries who obtained a R130 000 bursary from the Department of Public Works as part of this programme. The bursary is awarded to learners who passed Maths and Science and



Refiloe Lijane

therefore qualify for financial assistance based on their academic achievements. To ease the stress of costs associated with tertiary studies, the department's bursary includes accommodation, meals, textbooks, academic resources and a monthly allowance.

In addition to passing Maths and Science, the learners must pursue careers in Built or Property Studies specialising

in Engineering, Quality Surveying, Property Valuation, Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Town Planning at various South African universities.

"I feel privileged for receiving a bursary from Public Works and I am grateful to the department for giving me an opportunity to further my studies. The bursary has a great impact on my life, as it will enable me to change my family's living conditions," she says.

She feels humbled and appreciates everything her family does.

She further states that the department's bursary was her only hope of pursuing her studies at university, as her family has no funds to enable her to study further. Upon completing her studies, she hopes to work for Public Works in the future.