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## **South Africa: Public Works Helps 30 Learners to Study Further**

The Department of Public Works (DPW) has awarded 30 bursaries worth R3.9 million to deserving learners of the Matric class of 2017.

The bursaries were awarded to learners interested in studying for careers in the built industry to learners that are participating in the department's Schools Programme.

"The core function of the schools programme is to develop and nurture scarce skills as part of DPW's ongoing transformation process of the built industry. The bursary programme was introduced in 2014 and aims to harness scarce skills in the built industry," the department said.

To date, 258 deserving youth from disadvantaged communities have benefitted from the programme.

"The bursary is valued at R130 000 for each learner per year and it covers tuition, accommodation, meals, textbooks, academic resources and monthly allowance. This translates to a total of R3.9 million invested for first year students," the department said.

The learners will pursue careers in built or property studies specialising in Engineering (Civil, Structural, Transport, Electrical, Water Care, Mechanical, Chemical and Hydrology); Analytical Chemistry; Construction Management; Quantity Surveying; Architecture; Landscape Architecture; Urban and Regional Planning; Interior Design, Horticulture, Actuarial Science and Property Studies.

To date, 90 bursary recipients have completed their studies and 27 of them currently work for the Department of Public Works doing their internships and are part of the Young Professionals Programme.

A further 31 students are expected to join the department in 2018 for practical training.