



About 300 kids attended a career expo hosted by the department of public works. Photo by Nomampondo Plaatjie

Pupils prepare for the future

By **NOMAMPONDO PLAATJIE**

PUBLIC Works Minister Nkosinathi Nhleko encouraged pupils to pursue careers in construction.

On Monday, Nhleko addressed pupils at a career expo held at Bele-Zingcuka Technical Secondary School in Tsolo, near Mthatha.

"The government is building schools, hospitals, clinics and sports fields and that is where engineers and architects will be needed," said Nhleko.

"The built environment has lots of opportunities for young people because there is always work to be done in that sector.

"This career expo seeks to provide information about the pupils' career choices as well as the bursaries and internship programmes we offer."

Principal Mjikelo Mnge said he was happy the department gave pupils some insight into careers in the built environment.

"The pupils are spoilt for choice.

"It is now up to them to decide whether to go into the workplace or further their studies," said Mnge.

Pupil Zozibini Tsawe, who wants to study electrical engineering, said she

learnt a lot at the expo.

Zozibini said: "Now I know I have to pull up my socks in maths and physical science."

She said hosting the expo at the beginning of the year was a good idea because pupils still have the opportunity to make the necessary improvements to their academic performance.

Okuhle Magqabi, a pupil at St Cuthbert's Senior Secondary, thanked the government for caring about their future.

"The information we received will help us decide which subjects to take and which careers to pursue.

"I now know that if I don't have enough points to go into a certain field of study, there are other options in the engineering sector."

The expo was put together with the support of the departments of labour, agriculture and health, the South African police and tertiary institutions.