

# R6m a year investment in youths

Say what you like, the government of South Africa is doing its best in difficult economic times to improve the lives of its citizens.

The National Department of Public Works is one department that contributes to the lives of pupils from poor backgrounds across the country.

The minister of public works, Thulas Nxesi, gave 40 pupils who completed their 2018 matric qualification top of their class a R150 000 bursary per pupil per

year of study.

The bursary covers tuition, meals, accommodation, textbooks and a monthly allowance.

These pupils, who are worthy recipients, will be studying at various universities across the country.

They will pursue careers in construction or property studies, urban and regional planning, construction management, architecture, civil, mechanical, structural and electrical engineering.

This is among other career paths in industries where there are skills shortages.

The department's investment in these young people translates to over R6 million a year, and serves as testimony to the department's commitment to empowering young people.

So far, 145 bursary recipients have completed their studies and 57 of them currently work for Public Works as interns.

■ *Motlhabane Skade*