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MEDIA STATEMENT

PUBLIC WORKS WELCOMES CUBAN TECHNICAL ADVISORS

The Department of Public Works has welcomed 37 Cuban Technical Advisors to the country. The TCAs will be in the country for three years, to address skills challenges nationally in both the short and the long term. They will also help the department with technical expertise in project execution, project management and quality control, while transferring skills which will impact on service delivery.

The arrival of the 37 CTAs sees the launch of the second phase of the programme after the 1st was concluded in 2012. The CTA programme is also aimed at enhancing bilateral co-operation as expressed in the joint declaration of the sessions of the joint Bilateral Commission on Economic, Scientific, Technical and Business Cooperation between the Republic of South Africa and the Republic of Cuba during the 1st phase of the programme.

During the 1st phase, 107 Cuban Technical Advisors were appointed. They were tasked with transferring skills through structured programmes to graduates and experiential interns, internal officials and external providers. There were 450 beneficiaries to the programme.

The 37 new CTAs will be deployed at the Department of Public Works and the Mpumalanga and Limpopo departments of Public Works.

The welcoming of the CTAs in South Africa is part of a multi-faceted approach to skills development by the Department of Public Works. In its promotion of skills development, the DPW has a schools programme that promotes careers within the built environment and create a solid foundation for a high pass rate in maths and science so that learners can access built environment careers. The schools

programme addresses scarce resources that lead to poor performance in the schools and supports the teaching and learning of maths and science.

The DPW also has a Bursary programme for deserving learners mainly from the department's Schools Programme; to pursue studies at various tertiary institutions in fields specifically related to the department's mandate. This programme assists in meeting the strategic staffing needs of the Department by providing practical and accelerated learning programmes which build essential occupational competencies required by the Department. It also strengthens the potential of the labour market to supply the skills needed for Public Service employment.

Another skills programme of the DPW is the Young Professionals programme aimed at graduates. It is aimed at among others, to create a pool of qualified professionals that will address vacancy rate within the technical and core functions of the department and enable the department to execute its mandate and accelerate service delivery.

To date, there are almost 350 beneficiaries of various DPW skills development programmes, testimony of the department's determination to transform the industry and to ensure there is adequate skills pipeline.

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