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Special Edition

DPWI CELEBRATES CANDIDATES WHO HAVE OBTAINED PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATIONS IN 2020



public works
& infrastructure

Department:
Public Works and Infrastructure
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Meet DPWI's young professionals who have obtained their professional registration in 2020

The Professional Services Branch has noted a number of successful professional registrations in the year 2020, among the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure's young professionals. Therefore, in this special edition, the Branch introduces to the DPWI family, some of the young professionals who have obtained their professional status through the Young Professionals Programme.

The Young Professionals Programme is a structured mentorship programme to accelerate professional registration of the young professionals with relevant statutory councils such as the Engineering Council of South Africa and the South African Council for the Project and Construction Management Professions (SACPCMP), amongst others.

The Programme exposes candidates to national and international projects covering training areas in the following fields; Engineering (Civil, Structural, Transport, Electrical, Mechanical, Chemical and Hydrology); Construction Management; Quantity Surveying; Architecture; Landscape Architecture; Urban and Regional Planning; Construction Project Management; Water Care; Property Studies and Interior Design.

This programme aims to address the shortage of critical and scarce skills within the built environment; to capacitate Public Works and the State and to transform the built environment by accelerating professional registration of the previously disadvantaged groups.

Kindly share with us your comments and concerns by contacting the following colleagues;

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Meet DPWI's young professionals who have obtained their professional registration in 2020

Ridovhusanae Matodzi, PrQS

Ms Ridovhusanae Matodzi is a Professional Quantity Surveyor (PrQS) stationed at the Johannesburg Regional Office. She is one of the DPWI's young professionals who have obtained their professional status through the Young Professionals Programme.

She says the route to obtaining her professional registration was quite clear and straightforward, as the guidelines and milestones are set by the South African Council for the Quantity Surveying Profession (SACQSP). She explains; "Simply put, I would say I just kept walking the path.

"The journey began with getting the relevant qualification for the profession which in my case was a BSc with Honours in Quantity Surveying. The process was then followed by me gaining employment and then registering as a Candidate under the supervision of a PrQS.

"The challenge was mostly ensuring that I gained the correct experience as prescribed by the council and preparing submissions and for the APC interview. I am grateful for the support I received from the Department in this regard, more especially from Mr. Barry Noel my mentor who I swear was as committed as I was to seeing the process through; as well as the HCI unit. The process with its challenges took approximately 4-5 years, post qualification."

Ms Matodzi says she is proud of her achievement (by obtaining her professional registration) and she adds it goes to show that; "I can achieve a great deal if I just keep walking the journey." She says her professional registration means that she is able to stand shoulder to shoulder with her professional peers, as well as uphold the profession and what it stands for.

"With professional registration I will not only be able to gain better employment opportunities, I am also able to start my own Quantity Surveying Practice should I choose to.

"Most importantly I am able to better contribute and add value to my country while being employed by the Department. The world is my oyster. It's a cheesy line but it's true in this regard," she beams with delight as she makes these remarks.

She says professionally, she is positioned to be able to explore more options with better footing. "The SACQSP is engaging with other international bodies such as the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) in order to make it possible - with process, to be recognised globally. I personally haven't decided what my next step towards world transformation will be, but I am excited," she concluded.



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Jan-Adriaan Van Rooyen, PrArch

Mr Jan-Adriaan van Rooyen is a Professional Architect (PrArch) stationed at Head Office. He is one of the DPWI's young professionals who have obtained their professional status through the Young Professionals Programme.

He says he decided to engage more productively with the built environment, after having been fascinated by a range of the built fabric that South Africa has; while travelling extensively through the country as a musician. He did research in order to pick a profession that would engage with this context in a broader sense and that's when he started his seven-year journey (5 years of studies and 2 years Candidacy), to become a Professional Architect.

Van Rooyen says after three years of Bachelors studies and one year of Honours studies, he realised that Architecture was a confusing profession to the public at large and that it was best to gain more practical experience in the private sector for another three years.

"I soon realised that, although Architecture is indeed a creatively productive profession that engages all the senses in an effort to conjure creative solutions; it is precisely the honing of this broad range of skills that is confusing the public and other professions within the built environment. Then, somewhere during my Masters studies and Candidacy period at DPWI, I

started to realise that our country is in dire need of new creative solutions to old problems within the built environment. But hang on... Creatively navigating life due to my disability, pseudoachondroplasia/semi-dwarfism, is second nature to me. What is going on here... I pondered.

"It clicked; the broad confusing skillset that Architecture school engages is where these creative solutions lie. Maths, literature, science, history, philosophy, psychology, ecology... Life! This is what Architecture is," he explains.

He says the honour of becoming a Professional Architect will enable him to use the skillset he has been collecting over the past 10-12 years, to make a difference on a formal platform. "This not only validates my worth of being a creatively productive individual within DPWI, but also as a contributing member of a civic South African society. I now look forward to engaging with the beautiful built environment of our country and all the professionals there in, to creatively drive change and change lives," he concludes.





Meet DPWI's young professionals who have obtained their professional registration in 2020 **Andisa Mncwango, PrQS**

Ms Andisa Mncwango is a Professional Quantity Surveyor (PrQS) stationed at the Johannesburg Regional Office. She is one of the DPWI's young professionals who have obtained their professional status through the Young Professionals Programme.

In order to obtain her professional registration, she had to study for a three-year BSc in Construction Studies degree and a one-year BSc with Honours in Quantity Surveying degree. She explains; "From there I registered as a Candidate with the South African Council for the Quantity Surveying Profession (SACQSP) and underwent training under a registered Professional Quantity Surveyor for a minimum of three years.

Upon completion of the required hours, I submitted the necessary reports for assessment of my professional competence and lastly sat in for a professional interview." Her mentor Mr. Barry Noel is a Chief Quantity Surveyor who mentors Candidate and Intern Quantity Surveyors, as well as coaches Undergraduates and students.

Ms Mncwango says now that she has obtained her professional registration; registering with the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) is also easier since she meets most of the requirements. "Registering with RICS will be quite valuable because it gives one international recognition within the profession," she adds.

She says being professionally registered means that she is a competent individual in her profession. "I have better job opportunities and I'm able to contribute in my industry on a broader scale," concluded Ms Mncwango.



Meet DPWI's young professionals who have obtained their professional registration in 2020 **Lindokuhle Phungula, Pr Eng.**

Mr Lindokuhle Phungula is a Professional Engineer (Pr Eng.) stationed at the Pretoria Regional Office. He is one of the DPWI's young professionals who have obtained their professional status through the Young Professionals Programme.

He says in order to get his professional registration, he had to be registered as a Candidate Engineer with the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) and achieve all eleven ECSA outcomes at the highest degree of responsibility, which means performing engineering tasks at a level of a Professional Engineer but with no accountability. Phungula says he had to obtain a minimum of three years of working experience. He adds that with the help and support of his mentor Mr Errol Berman, he obtained his professional registration within the stipulated period of three years.

Phungula says obtaining professional registration means a lot to him as it fulfils his childhood dream of becoming a recognised Engineer. He adds that being registered as a Professional Engineer means he can now perform his tasks without supervision and will be fully accountable for the outcome of the tasks. He says he is currently involved in various in-house projects comprising of electrical installations, backup power supply and electronic security systems.

He says since ECSA is a signatory of the Washington Accord, it means that his engineering degree is recognised internationally by other signatory countries and not just within South Africa, thereby increasing his employment opportunities. He explains that; "While the accord does not cover licensing of professional engineers (that is to say, having the status of a Professional Engineer in South Africa does not mean that I will automatically have the same status in other countries in the Washington Accord), it does make it easier for me to gain professional recognition abroad."

Meet DPWI's young professionals who have obtained their professional registration in 2020

Mlondi Cele, Pr Eng.



Mr Mlondi Wiseman Cele is a Professional Engineer (Pr Eng.) stationed at the Port Elizabeth Regional Office. He is one of the DPWI's young professionals who have obtained their professional status through the Young Professionals Programme.

He graduated at the University of KwaZulu-Natal with the BSc Elec Eng. degree. "I started my career as an Engineer in Training at Eskom within operation, maintenance and project engineering environment. I then joined the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (at the Port Elizabeth Regional Office) as a Candidate Engineer.

In order to obtain my professional registration, I had to train at various levels of responsibility and prepare engineering experience reports in line with the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) requirements," Cele explains. He was seconded to an electrical engineering consultancy in Port Elizabeth to get work experience in line with ECSA requirements for registration as a Professional Engineer.

Among people who supported him is his mentor Mr. Errol Berman. Cele says the minimum period for registration is three years and it took him four years to submit to ECSA.

Cele says the professional recognition one receives by becoming a member of the ECSA inculcates a sense of confidence in the mind of the public, since clients can be assured that one's competence has been assessed by other professionals who are knowledgeable in one's field of expertise. He adds that the Engineering Profession Act No. 46 of 2000 as well as other Acts, provide for the reservation of work of an engineering nature for the exclusive performance by registered persons.

He says when one registers, the Act entitles one to use a particular name (and abbreviation), describing one's particular type of registration - such as Professional Engineer (Pr Eng). He adds that; "Using any of these reserved names or abbreviations, if you are not registered with the ECSA, is a criminal offense."

He says the registration with ECSA also enhances one's marketability abroad. Cele says; "The ECSA is a co-signatory to the "Washington Accord" – an agreement in which the registering bodies of countries such as Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Ireland - recognise each other's accredited university degrees in engineering."



Meet DPWI's young professionals who have obtained their professional registration in 2020 **Peggy Sidwangube, Pr Eng Techni.**

Ms Peggy Sidwangube is a Professional Engineering Technician (Pr Eng Techni.) stationed at the Mthatha Regional Office. She is one of the DPWI's young professionals who have obtained their professional status through the Young Professionals Programme.

In order to get her professional registration, she had to be registered as a Candidate Technician and acquire training at various levels as per the Engineering Council of South Africa's (ECSA) requirements. She says although she experienced many obstacles, with the assistance of her mentor Mr. Errol Berman and a company she was seconded to, she managed to acquire relevant information required by ECSA until she obtained registration as a Professional Engineering Technician.

Ms Sidwangube says as per ECSA's conditions, professional registration requires a minimum of three years of technical experience. "My first report was submitted with three years of experience and it was then referred back with a comment to add more information in order to proceed to the next stage. I resubmitted in 2019 and my submission was considered successful on 27 March 2020," she explains.

She says obtaining her professional registration was a hard-won achievement and it is a symbol of pride for her. She adds that the professional registration means that she now has credentials to earn clients' trust, as well as enhance her career opportunities. "I am recognised internationally, but to work in other countries, I need to apply with ECSA to be registered on the international register," she says.

Ms Sidwangube has thanked everyone who supported her saying; "I would like to extend my gratitude to the Department's HCI unit, Project Admin Officers and Project Managers for their support during the process of my registration. A big thank you also to my mentor and Vokon Afrika Consulting for allowing me to use their resources whenever I required assistance."



Meet DPWI's young professionals who have obtained their professional registration in 2020 **Kabelo Chabalala, Pr Eng.**

Mr Kabelo Chabalala is a Professional Engineer (Pr Eng.) stationed at the Mmabatho Regional Office. He is one of the DPWI's young professionals who have obtained their professional status through the Young Professionals Programme.

He says by observing all the possibilities when he joined the Department, he made a commitment to obtain his professional registration without being seconded, by utilising all available and limited resources.

"Being the first Mechanical Engineer to register as a Professional Engineer through the Young Professionals Programme in the Department and not being seconded is exemplary and shows that it is possible to obtain professional registration through in-house projects with the outstanding support we get from senior and experienced engineers in the Department," he says. Chabalala explains that registering with the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) as a Professional Engineer is the greatest highlight of his achievements in his engineering career.

He says the council requires a minimum of three years working experience to apply for professional registration, however it took him four years to confidently satisfy and comply with all ECSA requirements in order to qualify as a Professional Engineer; with the first two years in the private sector and the last two years in the Department.

He says being a Professional Engineer will enable him to execute his engineering activities and develop engineering design solutions with accountability. He adds that the ECSA registration is recognised internationally, hence it enhances marketability both locally and internationally. Chabalala concludes by committing to working diligently in order to protect the dignity and integrity of his profession.

He has also taken the time to pass his gratitude to all who supported his journey, "I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who played a role during my professional development from fellow engineering colleagues to senior engineers, mentors, project managers, supervisors, Director of Projects at the Mmabatho Regional Office, Director of Mechanical Engineering Services and Professional Services (PS) formerly known as Human Capital Investment (HCI)."

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