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Special Edition

A DPWI BURSARY IS MORE THAN FINANCIAL SUPPORT



public works
& infrastructure

Department:
Public Works and Infrastructure
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



A DPWI bursary is more than just financial support

One wonders how much time flies! It was back in 2014 when the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) began awarding bursaries for tertiary education to deserving matric students under the Department's Schools Programme.

Under the Programme, which seeks to address skills shortages within the built environment, the Department adopted secondary schools in various provinces in order to provide support to these schools with the emphasis on the learning and teaching of Maths and Science. Each year since 2014, the Department continues to award bursaries for tertiary education to dozens of learners from the adopted schools.

The recipients of the bursaries come from rural, township and disadvantaged schools from seven different provinces within the country, namely; Gauteng, Free State, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, Eastern Cape, Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

Recipients of the bursaries are to study any course within the construction and the built environment fields. The bursaries are part of the built environment skills pipeline strategy that was adopted by the Department, aimed at providing enough competent and professional skills through supported and funded educational programmes.

Recipients of the bursaries go on to pursue careers in the construction, built environment or the property sector, specialising in Engineering, Quantity Surveying, Property Valuation, Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Town Planning.

This Special Edition of WorxNews focuses on tracking down and profiling the recipients of the DPWI bursaries for tertiary education. These are bursary beneficiaries who studied in various fields relating to the construction and built environment fields, who have now graduated and have been absorbed as employees of the Department.

When you go through this copy and see how far some of the bursary recipients have gone, you will realise that indeed "a DPWI bursary is more than just financial support."

I would like to thank and send my greatest appreciation to every candidate that participated by being profiled for this publication.

Enjoy the read!

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“For every one of us that succeeds, it’s because there’s somebody there to show you the way out” – Oprah Winfrey

To my Supervisor, Ms Dikeledi Malongane, thank you for taking me under your wing as a young graduate, and teaching me everything there is to know about my field of work and Departmental procedures. Thank you for your mentorship, guidance and sharing your knowledge about the construction industry. As difficult as it is to work in this male dominated industry, you have managed to inspire me to reach for even greater heights.”

Mahlatse Maja describes herself as a “Pedi girl” born and raised in Ga-Maja, a small rural area in Limpopo. She lived there for the most part of her childhood until she relocated to Hebron, Pretoria where she stayed with her grandparents until she completed her matric at Tebogwaba Secondary School located in Ga-Rankuwa, Zone 7. She received her bursary while she was in her 3rd year of study. The bursary assisted her in completing both her Bachelor’s degree in Construction Management, as well as her Honours Degree also in Construction Management. Upon completion of her studies, Mahlatse was provided with an internship under the Pretoria Regional Office.

“Being part of the bursary programme has made my life easier in terms of completing my studies, gaining exposure/experience in my profession.” Mahlatse is currently working as a Candidate Construction Project Manager under the Pretoria Regional Office. She is still under the Young Professionals Programme that is providing her with guidance and assistance with mentorship for her to register as a professional in Construction Management.

“The bursary gave me an opportunity to further my studies beyond completing my degree, and immediately obtaining an internship upon completion of my studies. This minimized the hardships of looking for a job as a graduate and has provided me with a great opportunity in gaining experience to one day become a professional in my own field of study.”

“I would like to express my greatest gratitude to the HCI team who have given me an opportunity to perfect my skills and experience

through the Young Professionals Programme. From obtaining the bursary to my current position as a Candidate Construction Project Manager. I would not be where I am today if it was not for you.”



Her name is Inam Kula and she describes herself as a young and determined Xhosa Mbokodo. She was raised by her single mother from the vibrant streets of Gugulethu, Cape Town. Inam attended her high schooling at Westerford High School where her passion for architecture was ignited. Inam received her bursary in 2014 while she was doing her undergraduate degree with the University of Cape Town.

“I undertook my tertiary education at both the University of Cape Town and the University of Witwatersrand. I hold three degrees from the University of Cape Town, a Bachelors, Honours, and Master’s degrees in architecture and I hold a Postgraduate Diploma in Planning from the University of Witwatersrand.” -Inam is currently under the Young Professionals Programme working for the Department as a Candidate Architect under the Pretoria Regional Office.

During this time, she is being assisted in ensuring that she gains the relevant experience in order to attain her architectural professional accreditation. “I am supported through the Young Professionals Programme, which is very enriching and beneficial to any young professional in the built environment.” “To have a bursary in a country where majority of the country remain in poverty, yet the education system is commodified, is a miracle.

Whilst majority of the youth are unable to enter the doors of higher education as a result of a lack of financial means, I recognise and I am grateful that I am extremely lucky to be able to be part a bursary that has put me through university and is still supporting me through my career.” “Ndiyabulela kuni kwa DPWI nakunye neqela le HCI ngenxaso yenu ezifundwenizam. Ndibambangazo zozibini!”



It was William Ward who said “Teaching is more than imparting knowledge, it is inspiring change” and inspiring change in her community is Kgaogelo Ledwaba's mission.

“Coming from humble beginnings to becoming an inspiration in my community, has changed my perception of everything. The bursary programme gave me a sense of independence and has enhanced my leadership skills. I am in a position to help others to better themselves.”

These were the inspirational words of the 26 year-old Kgaogelo Ledwaba, a beneficiary of the DPWI bursary who was born and raised in Soshanguve, Pretoria by a single mom. “In my family, I am the only girl-child and I have three older brothers. At the beginning of my matric year in 2013, I was lucky enough to be one of the students from Soshanguve South Secondary School chosen to take part in the Department's Schools Programme.

“I received the bursary for tertiary education in January 2014 and I immediately registered to study Construction Management at Cape Peninsula University of Technology in the same year.

“Throughout my studies, the bursary covered everything I needed in school, from accommodation to food, stationery etc. I completed my B-tech in Construction Management in 2017 and graduated in 2018.”

“The bursary programme was so helpful in my varsity years and the HCI team was always available, checking up on us to see if we were coping with our studies and always finding ways to assist us in times of need. Being part of the bursary programme has been amazing and I am grateful that I'm the first one to graduate in my family through the assistance of the bursary scheme.”

Kgaogelo is currently working in the Department under the Young Professionals Programme as a Candidate Construction Project Manager based at the Pretoria Regional Office. “I am still receiving support from HCI as I am on route to professional registration with my mentor's assistance and guidance. I am so grateful to the HCI team and the Department at large for the opportunity they have given me. Coming from a disadvantaged background and receiving such an opportunity has been an amazing experience for me.”

“I have now managed to build my mom her dream house - this opportunity has greatly improved my entire family's situation. Kgaogelo and a group of friends (who were also part of the bursary programme), have now initiated a small organisation, through which they want bring hope to other children, the same way the Department has brought hope into their lives. “We aim to encourage learners in schools from our communities, to say it is possible only if you believe and become focused on your dream. When HCI team came into our lives, they did not know that they were not only impacting our lives but the lives of others through us.

“My growth wouldn't have been the same given different circumstances, but because of this opportunity and the practical experience from the Department, growth was inevitable. I'll forever be grateful for the opportunity as I've learnt in more ways than one.”



George Molomo grew up in New Eersterus, a township situated in Hammanskraal, north of Gauteng. He received his bursary from the Department in 2014 after completing his matric at Rakgotso High in 2013. George registered with the University of Pretoria to study towards a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

“Receiving the bursary helped me a lot as I come from an under-privileged background and therefore wouldn't have been able to go to varsity without the funding.”

After completing his studies in 2017, he was placed under the Department's Internship Programme for him to acquire practical experience for a year. George is now part of the Young Professionals Programme, working in the Department as a Candidate Mechanical Engineer. During this time, George still receives support from the Department as he is being guided through the route to becoming a registered professional.

“I would like to thank the whole HCI team as they have been with me through the whole journey till this day. They are currently still providing support in so many ways to help me become a Professional Engineer in the future. I would also like to thank Engineering Services for giving me the opportunity to work in their unit as it has contributed tremendously in my professional development.”



“To the Human Capital Investment (HCI) team at large, I would like to thank every single person. I feel indebted to the Department as a whole for the opportunity and valuable insight I've gained and I am grateful for the time everyone spent in steering me in the right direction. No one can imagine the amount of support I received during difficult times, especially at University. The positive influence this has had on my life - words cannot express how grateful I am, I am incredibly fortunate, I couldn't have done it without the Department.”

Asive Lomntu is currently a Candidate Construction Project Manager working under the Mthatha Regional Office. She was born and raised in Pedie, a little village in the Eastern Cape. She was raised by her grandparents, who have always motivated and encouraged her to study hard in order to shape a better future for herself. **“I was raised by warm people that had a lot of love and integrity and I will forever be grateful to God for them.”**

Asive was awarded her bursary in 2014 and she expresses how that was the greatest thing to ever happen to her as it was the beginning of a brighter future. In 2014, she registered with the University of Cape Town to begin her Bachelor of Science in Construction Studies. **“The Department was with me every step of the way - they sustained me throughout my degree.”**

After completing her studies, Asive was placed in the Department's Internship Programme in order to attain the relevant experience in her field of study. She is still receiving support from the Department on her journey to becoming a registered professional through mentorship and training that will give her adequate experience.

“Being part of the bursary programme was a blessing in my life, not only financially, but I got a chance to meet experienced people who nurtured and enriched me both on a personal and professional level.”



“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” - Nelson Mandela

Elias Mhlongo from Soshanguve in Pretoria completed his matric in 2013 from Soshanguve South Secondary School. He was first selected to be part of the Schools Programme in 2013 along with 5 other matriculants from Soshanguve South Secondary School and were then awarded bursaries in January 2014.

“I studied Electrical Engineering at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. I completed my qualification in 2019, and my graduation ceremony was scheduled for the 26th of March 2020 but it was cancelled due to COVID-19.”

This programme gave me the chance to get a tertiary education and make something of myself. I wouldn't have been able to afford to go to Wits if it wasn't for this bursary programme. **“After graduation, I was given an internship and a mentor to guide me on my path to registration as a professional.”**

“I currently work in the Department at Head Office in Pretoria under the Directorate: Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Services, as a Candidate Electrical Engineer. The Human Capital Investment Team still checks up on me, monitors my progress, provides support when I am struggling and provides mentors to help.”

“The bursary programme afforded me the chance to go to university, study what I'm passionate about and get a degree. Working for the Department has given me a chance to learn from some very intelligent people, gain invaluable knowledge about my career, challenge myself and also be able to provide for my family.”

“I'd like to thank my high school teachers who saw the potential in me and decided to nominate me to be part of the Schools Programme, the HCI staff for providing academic, financial and emotional support in times of great stress during my academic career and for giving me this opportunity to work as an Engineer in the Department.”



"I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Department for choosing me among the vast majority of deserving individuals in the country. Despite the failures and life challenges I had along the way, I was also able to experience great growth and discipline and have had numerous celebrations. The journey was worth the ride and I believe I would not be what and who I am today if it wasn't for the Department and thank you to the HCI team's contributions and for believing in me throughout my journey."

Fortunate Mooketsi is a young lady from Ventersdorp in the North West. In 2013, Fortunate matriculated from Thuto-Boswa Secondary School with four distinctions. After being awarded a bursary in the beginning of 2014, she moved to Johannesburg to register with the University of Witwatersrand and began her studies in Urban and Regional Planning.

A Bachelor of Science in Urban and Regional Planning is a three year course however, it took Fortunate four years to complete, and even so, the Departmental bursary maintained her. "I was very thankful for the patience they showed me because I knew that most bursaries are not that considerate and lenient towards academic performance." Once she completed her degree, she then registered for a her postgraduate honours degree at the same university and field of study.

"I believe becoming an Urban Planner is my calling. I had initially wanted to study medicine but when the opportunity came to study within the Built Environment, I grabbed it with both hands. I chose Town Planning because of my love for Geography Studies."

After graduating from University, Fortunate was well on her way to be absorbed in the Department's Young Professionals Programme. However one of the requirements to becoming a young professional is that the candidate has to have a driver's license. At the time, Fortunate was expecting her first child and she explains that she was not in a good position to focus on driving lessons so she took a break until she delivered her baby boy.

"Again, the Department was very patient with me and very supportive through the whole process until I made it and got my driver's license and then I was able to take part in the Young Professionals Programme."

Currently Fortunate works for the Department as a Candidate Town Planner at Head Office in Pretoria. Working for the Department has proven to be an adventure for Fortunate. "I had my first flight to KwaZulu-Natal - it was such an experience. I've also now been to the Free State, Mpumalanga and the Northern Cape."

"Being part of the bursary programme has been very helpful. I was afforded the opportunity to further my studies, something my family couldn't afford and now I just won't stop studying, as I plan to do my Master's degree with the University of Johannesburg next year. Life is a never ending process of learning and upgrading yourself."



Siyabonga Tokwe from the Eastern Cape was chosen to be part of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure's Schools Programme while in Grade 11 in 2013, studying in Amazizi Senior Secondary School, located in Mpekweni Location, Peddie.

"After completing matric in 2014, I was awarded a bursary by the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure in 2015. I completed my National Diploma in Mechanical Engineering at the Nelson Mandela University in 2019. At the beginning of 2019, I started working as an intern for the Department under the Port Elizabeth Regional Office.

"I am currently completing my postgraduate final year for a Bachelor of Technology (Btech) in Mechanical Engineering. At the beginning of this year, I completed my internship programme and became a Candidate Engineering Technician, still working under the Port Elizabeth Regional Office.

"I'd like to take this opportunity to give thanks to the HCI team for being with me through thick and thin. The journey is very exciting as I found myself a home and a family in the Department, which assists me throughout the obstacles I face by being always supportive and motivating."



Mackwin Modisakeng is from Kimberley in the Northern Cape. He completed his matric in 2013 at William Pescod High School. In 2014, after being awarded his bursary by the Department, he enrolled at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg for a Bachelor of Science in Construction Management. After completing his undergraduate studies, Mackwin enrolled with the university again and in 2017 completed his postgraduate studies in Quantity Surveying.

Currently, Mackwin works for the Department as a Candidate Project Manager and is being monitored by a professional Construction Project Manager to assist him obtain his professional registration.

Candidate construction managers manage and run projects under the supervision of registered professional project managers and under the guidance of their mentors. Their day-to-day duties include;

- Conducting site inspections/liasing with client departments/end users and other stakeholders
- Advising on consultants/ professional services needed on projects
- Assisting in the procurement of consultants/ professional services on projects
- Overseeing the drafting of specifications by consultants/ professional services for projects
- Chairing Bid Specification committees
- Overseeing the procurement of contractors on projects and overseeing the tendering process
- Chairing Bid Evaluation Committees and overseeing the appointment of contractors
- Conducting site handovers, overseeing the approval and auditing of Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) plans by Contractors
- Attending site meetings, monitoring contractor works, monitoring consultants/ professional services, drafting monthly progress and financial project reports.
- Conducting practical completion, works completion and final completion by contractors with consultants/ professional services

"I would like to thank the entire HCI team and Department of Public Works at large, for making it possible for me to get where I am today. Thank you for supporting me in my journey to professional registration and making me one of the people that have assisted in filling the shortage of scarce skills gap in the country."



Lulamile Kenward Mashaba was born in a small township of Malamulele in Limpopo. He matriculated in 2013 from EPP Mhinga High School. In 2014, after being awarded his bursary, Lulamile registered with the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg for a degree in Construction studies.

Through hard work and diligence, Lulamile completed his undergraduate studies in 2017. "The prerequisite to keep the bursary was to never repeat the same module twice or fail more than three modules in a year of study. I managed to complete my studies without repeating any module."

After completing his studies, Lulamile was placed in an Internship Programme in the Department under the Polokwane Regional Office and thereafter absorbed by the Department under the Young Professionals Programme.

"The programme was very helpful to me because I was afforded the opportunity to study at one of the best institutions in the continent and I also realised a dream of securing a construction management degree."

"It was a great honour for me because my hard work and perseverance were finally recognised and I was chosen despite a vast pool of students across the country. I always wanted to make my parents proud, so I grabbed the opportunity with both hands and managed to complete my studies in record time despite the high dropout rate of students in the Engineering and Built Environment."

Today, Lulamile works for the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure as a Construction Project Manager at Head Office.

"I am grateful for the opportunities the Department has provided me. I was able to enrol for tertiary studies without my parents bearing the financial burden. During the years I spent at varsity, the HCI team especially Ms Nancy Makhado was very helpful and understanding of the circumstances that we as students encountered."

"They motivated us and encouraged us to get back on our knees and keep on fighting. Today I ascribe my success to them for all their sacrifices and commitment."







Funny enough I did not choose this qualification. It was a matter of other disciplines being full at the time and this being the last resort. Little did I know that I would enjoy it this much.

It's true when they say the Universe always knows what you need. My name is Siyamthanda Ndwandwa and I am a 27 year old aspiring Construction Project Manager. I grew up in Port Elizabeth, a proud "Kasi boy" from Motherwell Township. My schooling began at Dumani Primary, interesting time in my life because my mother was my school teacher, later left for Greenwood Primary School and eventually matriculated in 2011 at St. Georges College.

I received my bursary from the Department during my second year in the then Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, where I was studying a Bachelor of Science degree in Construction Management. The bursary sustained me throughout the remainder of my studies. After completing, I enrolled with the same university to study postgraduate in Construction Management.

Right after my graduation in 2017, the Department offered me an internship. This was full-on work experience which built a solid foundation in my professional career. I was taken care of from tertiary level all the way to being an employee of the Department. I now work as a Young Professional Construction Project Manager in the Department under the Port Elizabeth Regional Office.

The Department has always availed opportunities for training and development within my field of study which has been very helpful. So far I have had the privilege to not be a job seeker, thanks to the Department. It is common in our country for graduates to find themselves in a state of hopelessness due to lack of opportunities, however this Department has offered people like myself a stepping stone in the right direction and this has been one of the things I am most grateful for in my life.

I would like to thank the DPWI management for seeing the challenge in the scarce-skills sector and endeavouring to address it in such a manner. I would also like to thank the HCI team as a whole, for the undying support provided to me throughout my career. Furthermore I would like to thank my supervisor and all colleagues whom I have had the pleasure of learning from, at the Regional Office.



My name is Tholakele Ngubane and I am from Emfume in KwaZulu-Natal. I attended Esizibeni Siyanda Comprehensive High School. I am the third child among four and we lost both our parents when I was in high school. My older sister took on the role of taking care of us.

I received the Departmental bursary when I was doing my second year in B.Eng Civil Engineering at the University of Stellenbosch in the Western Cape. One of the Student Recruitment and Retention Officers in the Engineering Department of the university informed me about the bursary and helped me write an email to the Department, attached my first year results and explained my background.

And as luck would have it, I was accepted to be part of the Departmental bursary programme. The programme helped me throughout my studies, I was given immense support and I attended meetings that were very insightful to help survive life at university.

I graduated in 2018 and I was given the choice to choose the province I would like to go to, to do my internship. In 2019 I started my internship with the Department under the Durban Regional Office.

I am currently working as a young professional Structural Engineer and I have mentors assisting me to I gain adequate experience while I am working towards registering as a professional.

This experience has been life-changing. I have been given the opportunity to work with the Department and learn from other young professionals. It has also allowed me to apply what I had learnt in university by being part of Departmental projects, that have also expanded my professional growth.

I am grateful for the opportunity I was given from university which has allowed me to become everything I have always dreamed of. All I have to do right now is challenge myself and learn as much as I can so I can register to become a professional. I am truly thankful to the HCI team and the Department for believing in me.



“Being part of the bursary programme has changed my life for the better, I have grown to inherit the culture of learning, actually taking in information and giving feedback to those without.”

These are the words of Ms Nobuhle Gabriela Simelane - a bright young lady who has been part of the bursary programme since 2015. After matriculating at Soshanguve South Secondary School in 2014, Nobuhle proceeded to register with the Cape Peninsula University of Technology to begin her studies in Horticultural Science.

“The Department sustained me, supported me financially, mentally and socially from the time I was in school until now.” After completing her Diploma in 2018, Nobuhle was placed in the Department's Cape Town Regional Office to begin her internship. There, she attended workshops and received training sponsored by the Department in order to assist her obtain work experience. Throughout her Internship, Nobuhle was surrounded by coordinators from the Department who were always there to mentor her.

“Being part of the bursary holders' programme was extremely helpful in a lot of ways. I have acquired experience, learnt more about other built environment fields that I am now incorporating into my own work. The Department has shaped me into a better person.”

Nobuhle is currently working for the Department as a Candidate Landscape Technician Manager. She is based at the Union Buildings as well as Bryntirion Estate in Pretoria.

“I would like to thank the entire Department for the warm stay, the people I have had the opportunity to associate with, the opportunity for a better life and all the benefits I am still reaping today.”

“I would like to give a special thanks to my Cape Town-based coordinator Mr Xolani Landule, also to Ms Thandeka Msibi and Ms Vangile Manzini, who have given me support in more ways than one. My greatest thanks goes to Ms Nancy Makhado for the role she played in my life, I got all my strength from her,” concluded Nobuhle.



“Both the programme and working for the Department has made me a better person in life. Right now I am motivated, full of hope and I believe in myself. I know without a doubt that one day I will change my background and that to me is everything.”

Lusizo Magwaza from Nyaka Location in the Eastern Cape. He grew up living with his mother who managed to raise him with the money from part-time jobs she would get here and there. He attended high school in Mpondombini Senior Secondary, where he matriculated in 2014 as one of the school's top achievers.

“I still remember when I got the bursary.” It was in January 2015, after the matric results were released. I received a call from my former principal and he informed me that I was one of the learners who have been chosen to receive the bursary from the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure. I was told that the bursary will cover all my expenses (tuition, books, meals, stationery etc.) and that all I had to do was pursue a career within the built environment.

“I was so happy. After the call, I went straight to my mom and told her the good news. It was such a relief to know that my studies would be covered. I studied my BSc in Construction Economics at Nelson Mandela University in Port Elizabeth. After completing in 2018, I did my BSc Honours in Quantity Surveying which I completed in 2019.” After graduating, Lusizo was allocated a mentor, Professor Barry Noel, who has been very supportive.

“Being part of the bursary programme as a whole has been one of the best things to ever happen to me. Everything has been set up for me, from when I was in varsity, I always had access to mentors and professionals working in the Department, whenever I needed help and the expertise.”

A special thanks to the HCI team, their semester meetings were insightful and a great relief of stress. “I was always encouraged to talk about any challenges I was facing, both at school and in life in general. I would also like to thank the Department as a whole for trusting me and granting me this opportunity.”



Tshepo Msimanga who is currently based in Soshanguve, Pretoria is originally from Kwaggafontein in Mpumalanga and was raised by a single parent (mother). He completed his matric in 2013 and that's when his future began. In 2013, Soshanguve South Secondary School was adopted to be part of the Department's Schools Programme. Tshepo became one of the bursary beneficiaries from the school based on his matric results. "I obtained 3 Distinctions in Mathematics, Physical Sciences and Geography.

In 2014, after the bursary awards ceremony, I had a bursary but could not be accommodated for the tertiary qualification I wanted to pursue." As if that was not enough, Tshepo could also not pursue his studies in electrical engineering at University of Pretoria where he was admitted as he did not meet the requirements.

"I was selected for a Bsc in Chemistry instead, which was a course not supported by the bursary. But with the assistance from the HCI team, I managed to go to the Stellenbosch University where I got enrolled for a Bachelors Degree in Electrical Engineering."

"The bursary sustained me throughout the course of my qualification. I was provided with a stipend which assisted in covering some of the essential needs such as toiletries. The bursary covered all the tuition fees, books, meals, residence and they also provided me with a laptop. I completed my studies in 2017 and graduated in December 2018. After graduation, I was absorbed by the Department as a Technical Intern where I gained practical experience in my field of work.

Being part of the bursary programme has been exceedingly helpful since my secondary school period. During our matric year, we had a Winter School Camp where we were taught leadership skills, time management skills and how to work and communicate

with others. Once we had moved to tertiary, we had quarterly meetings where we would give feedback to the HCI team, share our struggles and get motivation.

All the skills I have learned I still carry with me today." Tshepo is currently working as a Candidate Electrical Engineer, at DPWI's Head Office in Pretoria. "Being part of the bursary programme has changed my life significantly to a point where I have been able to support my family financially, since my grandmother and I are the only ones with an income. It was truly a blessing that after University, I was guaranteed a career. I would like to give a special appreciation to the HCI team for believing in me."



Mondli Nene from Ulundi, in the northern parts of KwaZulu-Natal attended his secondary school education at Inkamana High School in Vryheid, where he completed his matric in 2007. After completing his degree in Quantity Surveying, Mondli looked to further his studies and received his bursary in 2014 to study for his honours degree in Quantity Surveying with the University of Witwatersrand.

He received a bursary worth R60 000.00 that covered all his financial needs through his studies. By the end of 2014, Mondli completed his honours degree. After completing his studies, Mondli was placed in the Department's Young Professionals Programme where he was assisted to kick-start his career as a young professional, by being provided with training and mentors with experience in various construction projects.

"The bursary programme was very helpful as it is tailored to enhance professional skills in potential students who choose various careers in the Built Environment." Mondli is currently working in the Department as a Candidate Quantity Surveyor stationed at the Mmabatho Regional Office and is working towards obtaining his professional registration as a Professional Quantity Surveyor.

"I appreciate the endless efforts from the HCI team and the mentors who continue to assist me to acquire professional registration. Kwande lapho bethathe khona!!!"



Professional Quantity Surveyor.” Boitshoko is currently working in the Department as an intern Quantity Surveyor at Head Office in Pretoria.

“I still receive support from the Department. I have been assigned a mentor, Mr Barry Noel, who is ensuring that I obtain the relevant experience that will make me competent to receive my professional status. Mr Noel has been relatable and so helpful. He makes the journey so easy and so memorable.”

“Being part of the Bursary Awards Programme has changed my life for the better. The Department has introduced me to different careers which I did not know about and today I can gratefully say I pursued one of those careers and I am now on my journey to being a professional. With the unemployment rate of graduates in South Africa so high, I am thankful every day that I am not in the pool of unemployed graduates.”

“Thank you to the HCI team and the Department for making the dream of a black child that seemed farfetched, possible. It is all because of your commitment and care that today I am embarking on my journey to becoming a professional Quantity Surveyor.”

“Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.” – Malcom X

A dream that once seemed so farfetched has been made possible. The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure has helped in making opportunities available for a young lady coming from a village where prospects are scarce.

Boitshoko Chauke was born and raised in a small village of Mogogelo in Hammanskraal in the northern part of Gauteng. She matriculated in 2014 from Rakgotso Secondary School which is in Eersterus, also in Hammanskraal.

“In 2015, after formally receiving my bursary, I began my undergraduate studies in Construction Studies, through the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg.”

“After graduating, in 2018 I proceeded to do my BSc (Hons) in Quantity Surveying. “The bursary sustained me throughout my studies. I was provided with the following support; **Academic** - we had quarterly meetings to reflect on my academic progress and I was offered support where it was needed. **Financial** - the bursary covered all the costs for tuition fees, accommodation fees, meals, study material and allowance.”

“**Emotional** - ensuring that I get all the necessary support to avoid things such as depression etc.” While I was doing my Internship with the Department, I was provided with a mentor to guide me as I acquired experience in my respective field. I was placed in a private firm where I was trained to be a





Tshiamo Matsheng is a young lady who was born in a small town of Swartruggens, in the North West province. In 2013, during her matric year, Tshiamo was scouted by the Department of Public Works' Human Capital Investment team during the Department's annual Schools Programme camp.

In January 2014, she was awarded a bursary by the Department and went on to start her tertiary education in Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. Tshiamo was on the Department's bursary programme that covered for her tuition, food and accommodation until she completed her studies in 2017. After graduating in 2018, she was placed in a 12-month long Internship Programme within the Department. During her time as an Intern, Tshiamo continued to receive support from the Department.

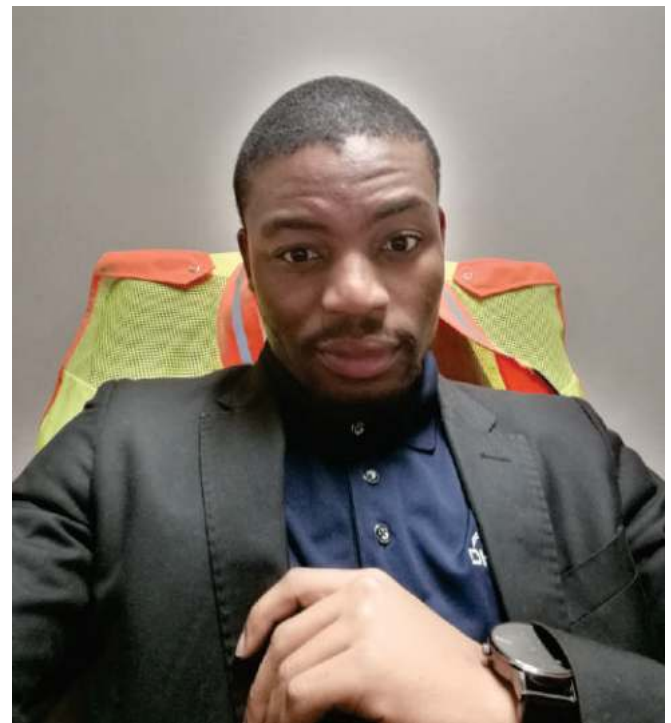
"The programme offered more than just financial contribution to our studies, the Department also made sure that we were coping with our studies. They also offered academic and emotional support through quarterly-based meetings, where we got an opportunity to talk about general problems we face as students and also learn how other students solve those problems." Tshiamo said during her interview. After completing her Internship Programme, Tshiamo was absorbed by the Department and she is currently working under the Directorate: Town Planning Services, as a Candidate Town Planner.

She is still receiving support from the Department through the Young Professionals Programme which has provided her with a mentor to help her gain the experience she needs in order to register as a Professional Town Planner. Throughout the process of this programme, Tshiamo also gets to be part of quarterly-based monitoring sessions where she meets other candidates to share their different experiences.

They get to talk about their problems and progress on the requirements needed in order to obtain professional

registration. Asked if she has any words to share with the WorxNews crew, Tshiamo said; "I would like to extend my utmost appreciation to the HCI team for this wonderful opportunity, from literally giving me hope and showing me that there's more to life than what I know."

As a young person who comes from where I come, not many are afforded the opportunity to further their studies after matric and to be granted an employment opportunity right away. For that, I would like to thank the DPWI and the HCI team for granting me this opportunity and for effecting such a positive change in my life. I will forever be grateful."



Jackson Motjelele is one of the Departments' bursary recipients from Limpopo. He completed his matric in 2013 at Kgagatlou Secondary School in Ga-Mphahlele. After being awarded his bursary by the Department in 2014, he enrolled at the Nelson Mandela University to study BSc Construction Studies.

Jackson enrolled with the same university after completing his undergraduate studies and in 2018 completed his postgraduate studies in BSc (Hons) Construction Management. Currently Jackson works for the Department as a Candidate Construction Project Manager and is being monitored by a professional Construction Project Manager to assist him obtain his professional registration.

"My life has changed for the better. I see my goals and dreams manifesting every day and because of that I am now an optimistic open-minded person. I would like to thank the HCI team for making this a successful mission and to the Department for ensuring that programmes such as the Schools Programme are in place and implemented. They have touched so many lives and for that, people like me, get to live a better life. Thank you."



My name is Aphelele Cengimbo and I was born and raised in Centane located in Mnyameni location in the Eastern Cape. I received the bursary in 2014, after completing my first year – I remember the day quite vividly.

I had applied with the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) and I was informed that I did not qualify for funding. By then I owed the school about R30 000 for the first year of learning.

I really couldn't let this get me down, I had seen some of my school mates having to drop out of University because of funds and I really didn't want that for myself. I then applied for work, and I managed to get work with a company that did maintenance of buildings in Cape Town.

I was earning R3000 per month and so I convinced the University to let me continue with my studies and I used the money I received from work as monthly instalments towards paying off the debt I had accumulated during my first year.

Then I learnt that the Department of Public Works had awarded me a bursary – that was a breather, I received the bursary at the perfect time. I studied Landscape Architecture (Formerly known as Landscape Technology) at the Cape

Peninsula University of Technology, where I completed, having graduated with a National Diploma (ND) and a Bachelor of Technology (Btech). In 2018, I enrolled with the University of Cape Town to study for a Master's degree in Landscape Architecture.

In 2019, I was offered a job opportunity under the Departmental 3-year Candidacy Programme. The programme is in line with the landscape architectural registration body – the South African Council for the Landscape Architectural Profession (SACLAP), which requires candidates to be registered and practice for a minimum of 2 years to be considered for professional registration. This might be a big statement, but I believe the programme played a major role in my journey to where I am now.

I believe, the Department went the extra mile to provide most of the necessities throughout my studies, above and beyond, the essential support. The bursary sponsored my academic trip to and around Ethiopia, in 2018. The excursion was part of our Design Studio and The History of Landscape Architecture - African Cities module.

During the trip I learnt and observed the ancient Monolithic to the Orthodox churches and their relationship with the overall cities fabric. It was the most informative trip of my life, which gave birth to one of my favorite/best studio projects titled "Memorial Landscape, Kechene Cemetery, Addis Ababa".

(See project details:

<https://aphelelecengimbola.portfoliobox.net/memorillandscapeaddisababa>)

Today, I am an in-house Candidate Landscape Architect at Head Office, under Real Estate and Investment Services (REIS), Architectural Services. With mentorship and supervision, I provide in-house landscape architectural standard, additional and advisory services to state projects.

As scarce as my skills are said to be on paper, it is very difficult to get a good job as a graduate student in South Africa. The Department's Candidacy Programme under which I was employed in the Department after graduation, is definitely in line with SACLAP professional registration requirements.



SOUTH AFRICA WORKS BECAUSE OF PUBLIC WORKS

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