PAY PROJECT
50 INTERNS JOIN DEPARTMENT

EPWP
CAREER BOOST FOR EDEN BENEFICIARIES

ON OUR COVER
ASOD EXTENDED FROM SOMERSET WEST TO HOUW HOEK
The Western Cape continues to experience unacceptably high levels of unemployment and poverty.

The need to create jobs and the increasing costs of providing services are challenges that the Department of Transport and Public Works will strive to overcome in the next five years.

In this issue, we mainly highlight the Department’s Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) initiatives that assist in the alleviation of unemployment and improves the ability of workers to earn an income, either through the enhancement of the construction industry’s ability to absorb people into the labour market, or through credible contractor development activities. These initiatives continue to make a difference in the province by supporting the Western Cape Government’s Provincial Strategic Goal 1: to create opportunities for growth and jobs.

Sustainable economic growth requires, among other things, infrastructure development. On pages 6 and 7, we feature the new Rawsonville community clinic which was transformed into a clean, modern public health facility that improves community well-being.

We are also pleased to report a reduction in the number of Easter weekend road traffic fatalities compared to last year. A total of 27 Western Cape road users were killed over the same period in 2014, compared to 23 deaths this year. Now that the winter rainy season is here, we are urging motorists and pedestrians to be extra careful, and that assists in the alleviation of unemployment and improves the ability of workers to earn an income, either through the enhancement of the construction industry’s ability to absorb people into the labour market, or through credible contractor development activities. These initiatives continue to make a difference in the province by supporting the Western Cape Government’s Provincial Strategic Goal 1: to create opportunities for growth and jobs.

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50 NEW PAY INTERNS

Gaining experience in the workplace is one of the main goals of 50 Premier’s Advancement of Youth (PAY) interns who assumed duty at the Department of Transport and Public Works.

The PAY internship, which runs from 7 April 2015 to 31 March 2016, will provide 750 matriculants with access to mentoring, career guidance, on-the-job training and skills training in one of the 13 departments of the Western Cape Government. Since it started two years ago, the programme has provided internships to 2,251 young people. Of the 50 matriculants placed in the Department this year, 39 will be working in the Cape Town Metropole and 11 in the various regional offices.

Director of Construction Industry, Innovation and Empowerment at the Department, Pat Jenniker, encouraged the group to make the most of this opportunity. “The interns will gain a variety of skills through formal and informal training opportunities. They will learn how to manage their time in their work and personal lives. They will also learn how to network and develop relationships within the workplace, and how to deal with conflict situations these relationships can bring about,” said Jenniker.

Interns are looking forward to a year ahead

Nondumiso Kali (19) from Khayelitsha is working in the Road Network Management component at the Department. “I am very grateful for this internship and am already learning so much about the road engineering disciplines. I really look forward to working in the public sector and to benefit from the mentorship and other opportunities to develop my skills,” she said.

The PAY internship is an important job creation and skills development initiative aimed at providing young people with the opportunity to learn and grow in a working environment.

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Excited PAY interns and their mentors.
MINISTER GRANT DELIVERS DEPARTMENT’S BUDGET VOTE SPEECH

Minister of Transport and Public Works, Donald Grant, delivered the 2015/16 departmental Budget speech in the Western Cape Provincial Parliament in March this year.

A total amount of R6.76 billion was allocated to the Department. Minister Grant described the priorities and how available funds would be allocated to realise the Western Cape Government’s Provincial Strategic Goals (PSGs).

He spoke about how funds would be used for the development and maintenance of appropriate infrastructure and services for sustainable economic growth.


CHILD ROAD SAFETY: Learners from Masonwabe Primary School in Delft South, together with the Department of Transport and Public Works, made a pledge to child road safety through their support project Walk This Way in May 2015. Read more on page 16.

Pledge to reduce child pedestrian deaths
New Rawsonville clinic improves community well-being

The new R16m Rawsonville community clinic was opened in March 2015 to replace a health facility that is no longer fit for purpose. Constructed by the Department of Transport and Public Works, the new building uses a design that is steadily being improved, based on lessons learned from practice. This means that every new clinic built in the Western Cape is better than the one built before it.

The clinic uses the new design guidelines produced by the Department’s Works Health directorate in partnership with the Western Cape Department of Health. The facility’s layout facilitates patient flow.

Staff members and patients were very glad to leave the old four-room clinic behind and begin to use a clean, modern public health facility that adds value to the community.

The clinic is open from 07:30 until 16:00.
Tel: 023 349 1040/41

Visitors are greeted by the “river stone” pillars at the entrance of the community clinic.
A number of Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) beneficiaries have grabbed the career opportunities presented to them by the Department of Transport and Public Works and its partners. After recently finishing their internship programmes, they were recruited as full-time employees in the infrastructure sector.

Using the EPWP to jump-start their careers

Grace Booi from George, who joined the EPWP as an electrical engineering learner in 2011, says the programme had a positive impact on her career.

“I did not anticipate to be employed full-time after the completion of my internship at Bi-Tron Technical Services. The practical work experience has proven to be valuable as I have since been given the opportunity by a private company to work at and undergo training to become a registered electrician. This would not have been possible without the EPWP programme and introduction to this private company, Bi-Tron,” she said. Booi is looking forward to doing her trade test later this year.

Gedion Noni, also from George, is one of the many road workers at Eden District Municipality who have gained from the EPWP’s learnerships and experiential training at the Eden Municipality.

“I was fortunate to learn from mentors on-site, which empowered me to develop in the industry. My job brings me joy and makes it possible to provide for my family. I’m thrilled to see how far I’ve progressed since becoming involved with the EPWP,” he said.

Working together

Eden regional EPWP Coordinator at the Department, Tosca van der Hoven, said without the private sector it would not be possible to do this training, as practical exposure is a critical element of the beneficiaries’ skills development, in line with the National Youth Service initiative.

ON TRACK

CAREER BOOST FOR EMERGENCY CARE OFFICERS

A total of 84 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) beneficiaries were recently appointed full-time as Emergency Care Officers (ECOs) at various health institutions in the Western Cape. ECOs are responsible for providing basic life support (BLS) to patients and transporting them as part of planned patient transport and Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

Jacques van Eeden, EPWP Social Sector Coordinator at the Department of Transport and Public Works said the beneficiaries gained valuable experience and acquired the necessary skills to apply for full-time positions in the service. “They assisted EMS to fill service gaps when there were staff shortages and during peak times,” he said.

Participants had to maintain the “P1<15 minute response time” performance standard throughout their internships. This standard requires trainees to be at the scene of an accident in 15 minutes or less, and to maintain an average response time of 15 minutes or less. The sooner EMS personnel can reach an accident scene, the sooner they can provide first line medical treatment, which improves the chance of survival.

Training formed an integral part of the internship and participants were expected to accumulate a certain number of continuous medical education (CME) points per month and complete assignments.

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Trainees also underwent mandatory BLS refresher courses and CME training sessions to meet the Health Professions Council of South Africa’s (HPCSA) continuing professional development requirements. They had to successfully complete three prescribed driving courses before they were authorised to respond to incidents or transport patients. This ensured that their skill levels were sustained and enhanced throughout the internship.

Bam Mvangeli (40) from Tafelsig started as an intern at Lentegeur EMS in 2012. “I’m proud to be permanently employed as an Emergency Care Officer. I’m looking forward to learn more in the field and study further in the future. I’m grateful for this opportunity to prosper in life.”

The Western Cape Department of Health and Department of Transport and Public Works have enabled these EPWP beneficiaries to further develop their careers.
Mentoring programme empowers emerging contractors

The Siyenyuka Advanced Training and Mentoring (SATAM) programme at the Department of Transport and Public Works plays a key role in the development of emerging building contractors in the Western Cape. As a result of the Department’s mentoring and accredited training, a number of contracting businesses are advancing to a higher level on the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB). The programme covers all the costs of providing this mentoring and training.

The programme runs over 24 months and is part of the Expanded Public Works Programme. It links Grade 3 to 5 General Building (GB)/ Civil Engineering (CE) enterprises affiliated with the CIDB with experienced mentors who assist in identifying training needs. Programme interventions include: assisting contractors with compliance and tendering processes (pre-tender phase); legal and project-related processes (on- and off-site mentoring); and business development assistance (business development).

Ebrahim Jacobs, co-owner of Ramiez Construction in Mossel Bay, is grateful that his family’s civil engineering business is benefiting from the programme. “The mentoring that we receive from the Department enables us to further our business development. The company has since obtained a 5 GB status as a result of the Department’s intervention. The programme helped us to grow into an entity that complies with industry requirements, which in turn makes it possible for us to make a difference in our community,” said Jacobs.

“The aim is to assist contractors to start thinking like businesses. This will add value to the construction industry as there will be more contractors who comply with requirements and who understand the construction regulations,” he said.

It is clear that both the Department and these contractors benefit from the programme. Contractors leave the programme with the necessary practical skills and knowledge needed to thrive in the built environment sector. The Department expects to benefit from better quality construction and from having to spend less time managing the quality of contractors’ work.

For more information on the SATAM programme, contact Jo-Anne Beukes on 021 483 8924.

Trainees register as engineering professionals

This year, the Professional Development Programme of the Department of Transport and Public Works has provided the necessary training and support to enable two trainee staff members to register as professionals.

The programme seeks to address the shortage of professionals in the built environment and engineering fields in the Western Cape. It does this by enabling recent graduates in the built environment and engineering professions to gain the on-the-job experience that is required for registration by relevant professional bodies. Delighted to be registered professionals

Acting Fleet Maintenance Technician Mustapha Subaily says the programme has boosted his career. “It opened many doors for me, which is super exciting. The training and mentorship provided by the Department were also invaluable. This assisted me greatly. I didn’t expect to be registered so soon,” he said.

Electrical Inspector Phillipe Dionso-Lafu expressed his thanks for the support he needed to become a registered professional. “I am delighted to have received the exposure, and am indebted to my mentor who guided me over the years.”

The Professional Development Programme has developed these two trainees into well-rounded, knowledgeable professionals.

To find out more, please contact Ruben Petersen on 021 483 5651.
Masakh’iSizwe Bursaries for University Students

A total of 86 students from various Western Cape universities are able to pursue studies in the engineering and construction fields with renewed confidence after being awarded Masakh’iSizwe bursaries in March 2015.

The Masakh’iSizwe Bursary Programme was established by the Department of Transport and Public Works in 2006. It shows the Western Cape Government’s commitment to skills development as an essential driver of economic growth in the province.

The programme has grown from strength to strength. It continues to provide students with opportunities to pursue degrees or higher diplomas in the following disciplines: architecture; building; construction management; geomatics; civil engineering; electrical engineering; mechanical engineering; property studies; quantity surveying; and town and regional planning.

Support from the partners plays a key role in the success of the bursary scheme. The scheme goes further than merely providing financial aid. It arranges internships so that newly qualified bursary holders can gain essential on-the-job experience.

Some graduates have been placed in the Department and others with a variety of external stakeholders.

Minister of Transport and Public Works Donald Grant said Masakh’iSizwe is more than a bursary scheme; it is a joint venture between the Department, private sector partners, and three universities (University of Cape Town, Stellenbosch University and Cape Peninsula University of Technology).

“We will, through partnership, ensure that our bursary holders are prepared in every way for leadership and have the skills to shoulder the responsibilities that lie ahead of them,” said Minister Grant.

“It’s a privilege, especially since I come from an impoverished background in Nyanga. The bursary brings much relief to my family, as financial constraints often place weight on our shoulders. I’m delighted because this bursary covers tuition fees, all prescribed books and material and accommodation and transport costs.”

- Lihle Nkohla (21), a third-year civil engineering student at Cape Peninsula University of Technology
The Department of Transport and Public Works is currently upgrading the surface of the R320 Hemel en Aarde Road between Hermanus and Caledon. The current roadworks include the re-alignment of Shaw’s Mountain Pass. The estimated contract value is R186 million.

Construction originally commenced in March 2012 but the contract was terminated in November 2013. In February 2015, the contract was awarded to a new service provider for completion. The construction should be completed towards the end of 2015 after which motorists will be able to enjoy a safer travelling experience.

Neil Cocks, an Engineer at the Department, said an on-site nursery was established at the start of the project to facilitate the rehabilitation of environmentally sensitive areas which included the critically endangered areas around Shaw’s Mountain Pass, as well as various wetland areas along the route.

Job creation

“Over the three year period, vast job creation opportunities were created for the local economy. To date, an amount of R21 million has been invested on targeted enterprises and R10 million on targeted labour. Currently, there are also five local learnership candidates on site,” he added.

Just before the 2015 Easter weekend, the Department of Transport and Public Works extended the highly successful Average Speed Over Distance (ASOD) traffic law enforcement system to two sections of the N2 highway between Somerset West and Houw Hoek.

The completed seal at km 12 and 13 on Hemel en Aarde Road

ASOD introduced from Somerset West to Houw Hoek

This was the sixth phase of implementing a system that now covers 452 km of the most dangerous roads in the Western Cape. The ASOD system calculates the average speed of a vehicle as it travels from one camera to the next.

Slowing down when you spot the speed cameras will not be sufficient to avoid a speeding fine.

The Department is confident that further expansion of the system will continue to reduce speeds travelled on dangerous roads and reduce the number of road crash fatalities. Slowing down when you spot the speed cameras will not be sufficient to avoid a speeding fine.

Minister of Transport and Public Works, Donald Grant, said: “We are confident that drivers will respond to the ASOD system by slowing down, substantially reducing their likelihood of being involved in horrific crashes like the ones we have seen in the past. This is particularly true for roads frequented by holiday-makers travelling to their various destinations.”

The first six phases of ASOD

- October 2011: R61 from Beaufort West to Aberdeen (71.6 km).
- December 2012: N1 from Beaufort West to Three Sisters (31.7 km).
- October 2013: R27 West Coast (57.2 km).
- December 2013: N1 Beaufort West to Laingsburg (190.6 km).
- December 2014: N1 Laingsburg to Touws River (72.7 km).
- April 2015: N2 Somerset West (Elandskloof point) to Steenbras River; and Steenbras River to Houw Hoek (28.8 km).
PROJECT TO REDUCE CHILD PEDESTRIAN DEATHS

Learners from Masonwabe Primary School in Delft South, together with the Department of Transport and Public Works, made a pledge to child road safety through their support project *Walk This Way* in May 2015.

The project, launched in partnership with ChildSafe and FedEx, added to the various initiatives held during Global Safety Week by addressing the serious threats that children aged 5-14 face on the roads. In the Western Cape, child pedestrians make up a large majority of the children killed on roads.

Zoe Adams, a Grade 7 learner at the school, said it was important for them to increase their road safety knowledge during Global Safety Week. “Many learners walk to school, so educating us on how to safely use pedestrian crossings helped a lot,” said Adams.

Minister of Transport and Public Works, Donald Grant, said young children continue to bear the brunt of the irresponsible and reckless behaviour seen on our roads, with many having been knocked down or killed in the Western Cape. “We must do all we can to change behaviours and attitudes towards road safety and ensure that we do not become another road–death statistic,” said Minister Grant.

*Model good pedestrian behaviour*

The Department appeals to members of the public to keep themselves safe and model good pedestrian behaviour for children so that they learn good habits. With their help, the Department can effectively reduce the risk of child pedestrian injuries and deaths.

“We must do all we can to change behaviours and attitudes towards road safety and ensure that we do not become another road–death statistic.”

New Safely Home Mxit app fosters road safety

In January 2015, the Department of Transport and Public Works introduced a new Mxit application which offers an interactive platform for sharing information on road safety. The platform was chosen because it gives Safely Home access to an audience that is usually hard to reach via traditional media and social media channels like Facebook and Twitter. Mxit appeals to young people from poorer communities due to its low cost and the fact that it can be used on many mobile devices, including older cellphones.

The app is focused primarily on giving young people advice on getting to and from school safely, as well as educating them about the link between drinking and road safety. Many people know about the dangers of drinking and driving. Few know that as many people die drinking and walking as drinking and driving, and that poorer communities are more vulnerable.

Hector Elliott, Strategic Co-ordinator, Road Safety Co-ordination at the Department, says the app provides a unique way of engaging young people in poorer communities.

“Everybody starts being a road user as a pedestrian and a passenger. Educating road users when they are young will shape their road safety behaviour as adults. We have used an airtime sweepstakes competition to engage with young people about how they get to school, and to gather information about their fears, concerns and experiences of road safety. This will inform our road safety campaign, development, and hopefully policy development as well,” said Elliott.

Since the launch of the app, more than 46 000 young people have signed up and the Department received 3 244 entries into the lucky draw to win R50 airtime prizes at the end of March 2015. Entrants were required to tell the department about how they get to school and how they feel about road safety. The app is synched each month with the Safety Home communication calendar and daily messages are sent to users to encourage them to stay safe on the roads, and to share what they know about road safety with friends and family.

Follow Safely Home on Twitter @WCGovSafelyHome and join Mxit: search for Safely Home
Is your child buckled up?

When travelling in a car with children, nothing matters more than ensuring they are safely buckled up. Seat belts are not accessories, they save lives.

Before a vehicle starts moving, drivers and passengers alike must make sure everyone is wearing seat belts, and that young children are wearing the correct safety restraints. Children often lie down or sleep on the back seat, and that young children are not familiar with the idea of wearing a seat belt. This habit is reinforced by parents and caregivers, who demonstrate that they love and care for the next generation. A self-care habit like always wearing a seat belt may be one of the first ways in which children can be taught self-esteem and the importance of recognising their personal worth.

Wearing a seat belt does not show a lack of confidence in the driver’s ability. It is the smart thing to do. It demonstrates consideration for oneself and others. It prevents needless tragedy and is positive action for ourselves and children safe on the roads.

In addition, the violence of the impact can turn their bodies into projectiles, posing a danger to everyone in the vehicle, whether strapped in or not. A child’s body thrown violently forward by a collision can easily break the neck of someone in the front seat or sail directly through the windscreen.

Whether on a short trip, such as going to school or a longer trip, children must be taught the discipline of wearing a seat belt at all times. If instilled from an early age by parents and caregivers, wearing a seat belt will become a habit for life, as familiar as washing or brushing one’s teeth. Adults who teach children this lesson are demonstrating that they love and care for the next generation. ‘A self-care habit like always wearing a seat belt may be one of the first ways in which children can be taught self-esteem and the importance of recognising their personal worth.’

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BUCKLE UP

IT TAKES A SECOND TO SAVE A LIFE.

http://safelyhome.westerncape.gov.za

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VISION:
To lead in the delivery of government infrastructure and related services.

MISSION:
The Department of Transport and Public Works delivers infrastructure and services to promote socio-economic outcomes and safe, empowered and connected communities.

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