NORTHERN AREAS STUDENTS TO BENEFIT THROUGH APTCoD

A total of 19 unemployed youth in the Northern Areas will benefit through the Department of Public Works Accelerated Professional and Trade Competency Development Programme (APTCoD), when they sign their learnerships contracts tomorrow. These students are additional to the 404 APTCoD students in the Eastern Cape of which seven has already passed their trade tests at Olifantsfontein in Johannesburg.

APTCoD is specifically designed to address the challenges of skills shortage and to empower the youth of the province within the built environment. The programme focuses on youth technical graduates as well as trainee artisans from various institutions of higher learning including FET Colleges that the Department signed a memorandum of understanding with.

These students have been identified within the Northern Areas to ensure all South Africans benefit through APTCoD. They will sign contracts with the Department of Public Works and the Office of the Premier.
The Department of Public Works has identified a number of projects within the Cacadu Region where these students will be placed for a period of three years.

They will be mentored and continuously assessed in various trades of carpentry, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, plumbing, bricklaying and painting. The training will be followed by trade tests at Olifantsfontein and the Eastern Training Centre in Port Elizabeth.

**Date:** 7 August 2008 (Thursday)
**Time:** 9h00  
**Venue:** Regional Offices, Department of Public Works in Albany Road, Port Elizabeth

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