



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### Water infrastructure strengthened by intern programme



2014 Magalies Water Interns

**4 March 2015**

The Magalies Water Capacity Building Programme has yielded results just a year after it was launched. As seven learners across different fields were offered internships for 2014, the positive developmental results and personal feedback from the interns showed that the programme was fulfilling Magalies Water's commitment to skills development and capacity building, especially among the youth.

Following the overwhelming success of the programme, Magalies has decided to extend the internship of the learners to years.

Infrastructure development is an effective means of creating jobs and developing skills. The programme goes beyond that by mentoring the interns in civil, mechanical and electrical work and providing daily supervision.

Engineering companies and contractors in the Capex – Capital Expenditure Programme – were approached to assist in this regard.

The water supplier – Magalies Water – supplies water to parts of North West, Limpopo and Gauteng. The long-running internship programme has aided in increasing their ability to meet water demand over a 42 000 km<sup>2</sup> area of supply, along with opportunities for accelerated capacity building.

The programme uses international best practice standards for mentoring including technical, in-service training. It aims to allow for open communication channels between interns, education centres, contractors and service providers and the water supplier itself.

In this way, dynamic skills transfer can take place and provide interns with aptitude in the most sought-after soft skills.

After a research phase, three learning institutions were selected to build strategic partnerships with the interns so as for them to start the programme. The institutions include the



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Further Education and Training in Brits (artisan level); Tshwane University of Technology (technician, technologist level); and University of Pretoria (engineer level).

Now the interns have a bright future ahead of them.

**Ike Motsapi & Infrastructure News**

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