THE rehabilitation of degraded road surfaces was a core focus of the recently completed periodic maintenance project on the national route R410 between Lady Frere and Quiba in the Eastern Cape. The 66.3km road maintenance project, valued at approximately R60m, started at the km1.77 road marker, near Lady Frere, and continued up until the end of section 2 at km51.02. Labour was sourced from the surrounding areas between Lady Frere and Cala in the Emalahleni and Sakhisizwe local municipalities.

But responsible labour sourcing isn’t the only way SANRAL gave back to the local population. “A community involvement initiative that sought to both uplift and inspire ownership of the road added a collaborative element to this project,” said Mbulelo Peterson, SANRAL’s Southern Region Manager.

The initiative saw the repair and beautification of 44 bus stops along the route. Twelve schools located along the road participated in a bus stop mural competition. Approximately 36 pupils from Grades 7 to 12 were provided with the tools and materials to paint the bus stops in their own designs. R2 000 in prize money was awarded to the top three bus stop murals. The winning school got R1 000, while the school
COMMUNITY engagement and development is part of the very fabric of SANRAL. We go beyond building and maintaining the national road network. At SANRAL, we remain cognisant of the fact that our roads are built to connect people, goods and services – and this role has a tremendous impact in the development of our economy. We remain committed to driving transformation and inclusion in all our work.

During the 2016/17 financial year, we awarded 172 contracts – worth around R16bn – for new projects. SMMEs earned a total of R4bn through SANRAL contracts – worth around R2bn – for new projects. The number of learners who participated in SANRAL’s science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) educational programmes increased from 216 in 2010 to 2299 in 2016.

The agency has also made enormous strides in the empowerment of locals through training programmes on our projects. Our work uplifts the communities we serve, as well as providing safer, more user-friendly road infrastructure.

And we will continue our upliftment projects strengthened by our brand new strategy, Horizon 2030, and a draft Transformation Policy. In the few months, we have traveled the length and breadth of the country engaging with stakeholders in the construction and related industries on how we can better do business and serve the community. Throughout the rollout of our programmes and projects we will continue to consult with communities close to our road network to establish what their needs are and how they can be met.

As you read this, we are developing a more focused Community Development Strategy, with a view to streamlining our future investment in community projects. This strategy will guide how future community development projects (CDPs) are selected, funded and implemented.

In this edition of Investing in the Community, we focus on SANRAL’s ongoing efforts to provide jobs and training, and support STEM education all over SA, as well as our determination to improve economic participation with Horizon 2030 and a Transformation Policy that ensure a more equitable slice of the pie for all.

Skhumbuzo Macozoma is SANRAL’s CEO

FOR almost a year, SANRAL has worked hard at developing its Horizon 2030 strategy and draft Transformation Policy. Although the agency’s primary focus is the delivery of a safe, efficient, reliable and resilient national road transport system, the objectives laid out in these important documents can only be achieved if SANRAL remains relevant to the communities in which it operates on a daily basis. At the heart of the agency’s strategy and Transformation Policy lies the urgency to develop and empower South Africa’s previously disadvantaged people and communities, through training and mentorship, and safe access and mobility, respectively.

SANRAL’s community development projects (CDPs) are essentially training programmes through which people receive South African Qualifications Authority-accredited training in road building. So it was important that the development and implementation of these projects be identified as a key focus area of Horizon 2030. The individuals who took part in the training programmes did not only learn about road building in general, but also took part in the construction of access roads and ancillary facilities, under the mentorship of experienced construction staff.

The agency’s CDPs have massive potential to contribute to the transformation of the construction and related industries. This is why SANRAL states in its draft Transformation Policy that, in addition to the customary standalone CDPs, as of 1 April 2018, conventional projects will include CDP components wherever feasible. And because these projects play such a significant role in both Horizon 2030 and our draft Transformation Policy, the agency is in the process of developing a CDP Strategy, which will inform policy and implementation plans.

While developing a draft CDP strategy, it became evident that the implementation of these projects is not just good news for South African communities but also for vulnerable communities and road users, which promotes mobility and economic development.

SANRAL’s enhancement of its CDP programme is not just good news for South African communities of all shapes and sizes, it bodes well for the agency’s relationship with the public we serve.

Marlize Nel-Verwey is a Project Manager at SANRAL’s Southern Region

Sanral to Enhance Its Community Development Project Programme

SANRAL TO ENHANCE ITS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT PROGRAMME

Marlize Nel-Verwey

in second place won R750 and third place got R250.

“The mural competition helped the local community take ownership of the bus facilities they use every day – and will hopefully ensure that these decorated bus stops are not vandalised in the future. The finished bus stops add to the aesthetic of the completed road and beautify the area through which this portion of the R410 runs,” Peterson said.

“A recurring theme in the murals was road safety, which is indicative of the impact that such a road has on local communities. We hope that the completion of this project will contribute to improved road safety for those who live and work along this section of the National Route R410.”

Marlize Nel-Verwey is a Project Manager at SANRAL’s Southern Region.

Skhumbuzo Macozoma is SANRAL’s CEO.

Sanral’s Southern Region

Building South Africa through better roads
Twenty small, medium and micro-enterprises (SMMEs) and more than 200 local community members have benefited from a R58m community development project in the Alfred Nzo District Municipality of the Eastern Cape.

Situated in the poverty-stricken Umzimvubu and Ntabankulu local municipalities, this project has brought employment, training and skills development to six rural communities that have experienced first-hand the devastating effects of unemployment. Via a series of theoretical and practical training programmes, local SMMEs and their employees gained meaningful employment on SANRAL-led construction sites, while also advancing their CIDB grading levels – expanding their opportunities in the construction industry.

Over R55m has been spent on training and construction management services for the construction of community access roads and pedestrian facilities along the N2 between Mt Frere and the Ngcweleni River.

The project benefited six rural communities of Bhaca, Xesibe and Mpondo people.

In order to provide local communities with the opportunity to improve their construction skills and gain the work experience needed to improve CIDB gradings, SANRAL undertook a community development project focused on recruiting and training 20 100% black-owned SMMEs.

After the theoretical training, the SMMEs were contracted to complete various works packages related to the construction of the access road and pedestrian facilities. The construction formed part of the practical component of the community development and training programme.

Employing a minimum of 10 locals each, all 20 SMMEs were given the opportunity to work on an approximately 400m of community access roads. During the construction phase, they were provided with further on-site training and mentoring. The quality of their work was assessed and moderated.

All the SMMEs completed their allocated work within the contract period and SANRAL-appointed consultants are assisting the qualifying SMMEs to improve their CIDB gradings.

SANRAL Project Manager Thabiso Ngozwana said: “Simply by working on this project, the participating SMMEs have increased the value of the projects they are eligible to tender for in the future. This has far-reaching implications for their success and the livelihoods of their employees.”

Although the construction of the community access roads and related pedestrian facilities is complete, some aspects of the training are still under way. The project is expected to be completed on 22 September 2018.

“This community development initiative was and continues to be a success. There were no delays on the project and the communities are using the access roads and pedestrian facilities. Not only that, the SMMEs working on this project were upskilled, improved their CIDB gradings and increased their chances of future work. “SANRAL is committed to empowering SMMEs. They can be proud of their achievements on this project and we look forward to seeing them grow and flourish in the construction industry,” Ngozwana said.

WHAT KIND OF TRAINING?

Following the SMME recruitment process, training was provided to various SMME directors, supervisors, foremen and general workers.

THE TRAINING INCLUDED:

• A Construction Education and Training Authority (CETA) accredited skills programme in construction, tendering and costing, and construction contracting (NQF Level 2)
• A CETA-accredited skills programme for construction supervision (NQF level 4)
• A CETA-accredited skills programme for construction roadworks
• Generic skills training that included flag person training, safety representative training, first aid training and conflict management and leadership training
SUPPORTING NEXT-GEN ENGINEERING

Elana Fourie, SANRAL’s Development Planner, sets out SANRAL’s contributions to education in South Africa

What is SANRAL’s approach to education? We strongly support the recommendations in the National Development Plan to prioritise education, training and innovation. Without investments in these fields, the country will not be able to close the skills gap, create jobs or accelerate economic growth.

How does investing in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education contribute to SANRAL’s objectives? It is in our interest to support the emergence of the next generation of engineers, scientists, artisans and technicians who will plan and manage South Africa’s future road infrastructure.

We are creating a pipeline of talent that will eventually benefit the entire country.

What are your main focus areas? We focus strongly on the training of teachers, especially from rural and underprivileged communities. A good example of this is our partnership with the University of the Free State. Here we are involved in the Family Maths and Family Science initiatives, which offer enrichment classes for student teachers.

SANRAL also supports the university’s ICT Laboratory for Science, which gives learners hands-on experience at the Bloemfontein and QwaQwa campuses. It also offers opportunities for student teachers to extend their practical skills.

What makes your approach unique? We involve parents and empower them with sufficient knowledge to support their children. This leads to a strong relationship among teachers, learners and parents that supports and contributes to better learning.

How does SANRAL support learners and students who want to study further in the fields of science, technology, engineering and maths? We offer scholarships to high school learners and we support them through mentorship and help with exam preparations. In the 2016/17 financial year, SANRAL awarded 133 bursaries to students in the fields of civil engineering, construction and the built environment. A number of these students are also offered internships at the agency and at contractors who work on SANRAL construction projects.

THE Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics in Action Pipeline Programme (STEM PP) offered by Nelson Mandela University (NMU), in partnership with SANRAL, has improved the academic lives of more than 2 200 high school learners and teachers in the Eastern Cape since its inception in 2010. STEM PP consists of several educational programmes, all focused on increasing competence in STEM subjects – in both learners and teachers.

Learners from various high schools in Nelson Mandela Bay participate in the Getting Ahead in Technology and Engineering (Gate) programme and the Selected Learner Programme presented by STEM PP. The classes are held at the university’s Missionvale Campus in Port Elizabeth, as it is easily accessible to all communities.

STEM PP manager Isabel van Gend said: “The aim of the courses is to enhance the learners’ understanding of and promote positive attitudes towards science and mathematics. Participants receive valuable extra tuition in career-related fields and are equipped with the necessary skills to operate in a higher education or science-related work environment.”

Nadia Petrus, a Grade 11 learner at Bertram High School in Bloemendal, participates in the Selected Learner and Gate programmes, which has helped improve her maths and science marks immensely. “The study guidelines helped me focus on my work and where to improve most of my marks,” she said.

Another Grade 11 participant, Michaela Aliva, from St James (RC) Senior Secondary School in Schauderville, said she too was struggling with her physical science marks. “Now they’ve improved and I understand the work much better.”

The Educator Toolbox programme has also yielded great results for learners and their instructors.

Uitenhage High School teacher Lee-Ann van Heerden said that physical and life sciences teachers from her school have attended various career exploration sessions, as well as workshops on teaching and learning strategies for Grade 10-12 students.

SANRAL also funds and manages a number of educational projects outside of STEM PP, including the awarding of bursaries and scholarships.

The primary objective of STEM PP is to grow the number of Grade 12 learners achieving good enough marks to continue with tertiary training in engineering and science. SANRAL supports the programme through funding. The agency also funds and manages a number of educational projects outside of STEM PP, including the awarding of bursaries and scholarships.

Number of individuals participating in STEM in ACTION from 2010 - 2016

- Learners in the Gate Project from Khumulwani High School, Ethembeni Enrichment Centre and Kwezi Lambo Comprehensive School
SANRAL, CSIR TEAM UP

THE design of road materials and pavements has become an exact science. Materials can be engineered to withstand heavier traffic and harsher environmental conditions. They should also be durable and ageing or degradation should be prevented as far as possible. To this end, SANRAL, the CSIR and the University of the Free State have initiated a set of road materials testing laboratories. Three labs are being constructed or upgraded with funding from SANRAL: an academic laboratory to train students at the University of Pretoria, a reference testing laboratory that will be managed by the CSIR on the University of Pretoria’s experimental farm and an upgraded research laboratory on the CSIR campus itself.

In addition, SANRAL has funded several research projects at the CSIR to improve the design of roads. These interventions have the potential to save the country hundreds of millions of rands.

PEDESTRIAN BEHAVIOUR EXAMINED

THE SANRAL Chair in Transportation, Planning and Engineering at UCT covers a wide range of related approaches. The course with the greatest impact is the fourth-year civil engineering course on transportation engineering. About 100 students are trained in the fundamentals of geometric road design, pavement design and traffic engineering design.

The Chair is also looking at specific groups of people (women, urban poor, public transport users) using specific systems (public transport, walking) to specific destinations (factories, jobs, schools) and at specific times of the day. Using a computational system called agent-based modelling, which simulates the behaviour and interactions of individuals or groups with the system as a whole, the Chair is examining how users of the multi-modal public transport system react to network configurations, as well as hybrid models of modes of transit.

An investigation into pedestrian infrastructure and behaviour in Africa is also under way, as is the development of a smartphone app that pedestrians can use to rate their walking environment.

Stellenbosch electrical and electronic engineering Master’s student Hardy van der Merwe has built a piece of software specifically to analyse pedestrian movements using footage from surveillance cameras along South Africa’s highways.

DIVERSITY IN ENGINEERING BLOOMS

THE SANRAL Chair in Pavement Engineering at Stellenbosch University has gone from strength to strength in the last 17 years. This growth has brought with it unprecedented diversity, both from within South Africa and from beyond its borders. Between 40% and 60% of students come from historically disadvantaged communities.

Among its defining features is the Chair’s cooperation with international universities in Rwanda, Brazil, China, the Netherlands, Germany, Italy and the US. With regard to outputs, seven doctoral and 51 Master’s degrees have been awarded. More than 1 000 student courses have been completed in the same period.

Undergraduate activities have also flourished, with inputs from the SANRAL Chair, into transportation science, advanced design, research projects and materials science in second- to fourth-year courses.

ICT BOOSTS SCIENCE TEACHING

THE Physical Sciences ICT Laboratory at the University of the Free State uses information and communication technology (ICT) to support effective science teaching and learning. This enables more learners and students to enter science-related studies and careers such as engineering and teaching science.

REGIONAL CENTRE IN THE OFFING

THE SANRAL Chair in Mathematics, Science and Technical Education at the University of the Free State is a multi-pronged intervention that includes research on science and maths education, postgraduate training at Master’s and PhD levels, recruiting and supporting talented high school learners, building and supporting professional communities of teachers; and the dissemination of research findings.

In its three years of existence, this Chair has supported and produced 15 PhDs and six Master’s graduates in science, mathematics, technology and educational leadership studies.

The possibility of establishing and launching a regional centre of excellence in science, mathematics and technology education to service the entire SADC is no longer just a pipe-dream, thanks to seed funding from the SANRAL Chair endowment.

DEMYSTIFYING MATHS

THE Science-for-the-Future (S4F) unit in the Faculty of Education at the University of the Free State is a multi-faceted and multidisciplinary programme that aims to improve the teaching and learning of mathematics in the early school years.

It uses a hands-on approach and activities to improve understanding and change attitudes towards maths in the foundation and intermediate phases of school.

Teachers are trained at the UFS. They also conduct parents’ training sessions at local schools. This involves parents in their children’s maths education.

During 2017, almost 20 000 project participants from 176 schools in predominately rural communities across the Free State, Gauteng, Northern Cape and Eastern Cape were actively involved in Family Math projects.
RESIDENTS of Klerksdorp in the North West can look forward to a safer road environment, thanks to newly developed infrastructure by SANRAL.

In June 2016, the national roads agency started the construction of pedestrian facilities along section 15 of the N12 near the Jouberton and Alabama townships in Klerksdorp. The project, worth approximately R51m, is for the construction of concrete sidewalks and kerbng, fencing off a section of the road, minor capacity improvements and drainage, as well as improvements to four existing intersections.

SANRAL Project Manager Lawrence Chauke believes that changes in land use, urban development and the spatial formation of cities and towns force pedestrians to cross or walk along the national roads, which puts people at risk.

“The safety of pedestrians is important to us and we prioritise it in all our infrastructure,” he said.

“SANRAL has to strike a balance between the safety of pedestrians and the primary use and effectiveness of the national road network.”

SANRAL appeals to community members to make use of the new facilities and be safe on the roads.

SANRAL recently unveiled brand new, safer walkways that stretch about 8km along the N2 in George – between the York Street interchange and the Garden Route Mall. The walkways are designed to provide safe movement for residents of Thembalethu, Pacaltsdorp, Lawaaikamp and Ballotsview.

Western Region Manager Kobus van der Walt said: “Approximately 40% of all deaths on South African roads are pedestrians. They are the most vulnerable group of all road users and safety is a big priority for SANRAL.”

To ensure that pedestrians do not cross the highway at will, a 2m-high, welded mesh fence was erected along the N2, separating the pathways from the freeway. The fence also bars stray animals from wandering onto the freeway, which has been a cause for concern.

Van der Walt said that the targeted spend on SMMEs for this project was R24.3m and for labour it was R12.2m. Key elements of the construction were the use of the local labour force. The rolling terrain actually made this project more amenable to labour-enhanced construction, as heavy construction vehicles could not operate in these conditions. Manual labour is required to build pathways on steep slopes.

“This project had the added advantage of providing employment to many people from the George area,” Van der Walt said.

A new pedestrian bridge has also been constructed alongside the N2, allowing pedestrians and cyclists to move safely across the railway line at Meul River.

THE JEWEL OF GEORGE

THE Pacaltsdorp Diamond Interchange project included the widening of both the existing Pacaltsdorp Interchange bridge and the two-lane York and Beach Roads, which were converted to a dual carriageway, four-lane road with turning lanes at both ramp terminals. Sidewalks have also been constructed, as well as a traffic median island. Existing asphalt surfacing has been rehabilitated, traffic signals relocated, road signage and markings replaced and street lights added. This was a joint project among SANRAL (contributing 50%), the Western Cape provincial government (40%) and George Municipality (10%).
KING WILLIAMS TOWN SMMES BENEFIT FROM MAJOR CONSTRUCTION

IN KING Williams Town, SANRAL created work for more than 200 local labourers on a major construction project.

The agency trained 26 CIDB grade 1 and 2 SMMES in the first phase of the rehabilitation of the N2, from Buffalo River to the Breidbach intersection, and the R63, from Alexandra Road to Bhisho. Six of these SMMEs were then employed on the project.

In total, 21 SMMEs (ranging from CIDB grades 1-6) were contracted to work on the rehabilitation project, representing an investment of R30m. The project was concluded in November 2017 and phases two and three of the roadworks will start mid-2018.

Phase two is the realignment of the N2 from Bulembu Airport Road intersection to the Buffalo River Bridge, tying into phase one. This project will include improvements to the horizontal and vertical alignment of the N2 and the construction of three new bridges, which will replace the current ones.

Phase three includes the construction of the Breidbach underpass and partial construction of the Belstone Interchange. This system is designed to make travelling easier between East London and Bhisho.

Phases two and three are envisaged to commence in the middle of this year and will run concurrently over a construction period of 30 months.

SANRAL Southern Region Manager Mbulelo Peterson said: “It is envisaged that further opportunities for SMMEs will be created in the implementation of these phases, in line with the government’s policy on empowering SMMEs.”

R63 SECTION UPGRADE GOOD NEWS FOR ADELAIDE AND FORT BEAUFORT

DURING the R49m road maintenance project on the R63, between Adelaide and Fort Beaufort in the Amathole District Municipality in the Eastern Cape, SANRAL empowered and developed individuals from local communities through 12 training and skills development workshops, with a combined value of R256 400.

The workshops included construction skills such as brick paving, kerb laying and road marking, as well as business skills such as tendering.

In terms of targeted labour, the youth- and woman-empowerment participation goals achieved on this project were 30% and 37% respectively, while 80% of targeted enterprises participating were woman-owned.

Mbulelo Peterson, SANRAL’s Southern Region Manager, said that an aspect of community development was reserving work packages for lower CIDB-graded SMMEs, along with improving pedestrian and community infrastructure.

“SANRAL repaired kerbs and sidewalks and constructed pedestrian walkways in Adelaide. We also constructed safe lay-by areas near the entrance to Fort Beaufort for vendors operating in the informal economy,” he said.

Major works on this project included base, rut and surface repairs, the sealing of cracks, sealing the surface with a new bituminous double-seal along the rural section, an asphalt overlay through Adelaide town and replacing damaged fencing, along with new road markings and studs.
BUSINESS UNUSUAL
SANRAL is pioneering change in construction through joint ventures with small business

ONE of the biggest challenges facing emerging enterprises in the construction industry is competing with established companies for big projects.

In an attempt to level the playing field, SANRAL has introduced a contractual clause that actually requires big companies to partner with small businesses when bidding for construction projects. It’s part of the agency’s vision of empowering small businesses to grow and contribute to infrastructure development.

The joint venture (JV) condition was first introduced with the awarding of two contracts for the rehabilitation of sections of the R573 Moloto Road, a major route linking Gauteng, Mpumalanga and Limpopo.

According to Nontobeko Mathenjwa and Lawrence Chauke, SANRAL Project Managers on Moloto Road, this project is the first of its kind and took a lot of planning and consultation.

Mathenjwa said: “This is a SANRAL initiative. We had no reference or prior experience of implementing this model. It was really exciting to practically develop words and phrases to incorporate into our procurement documents. I’m glad it’s working and opening up the industry to small business.”

In the Limpopo section of the project, a contract was awarded to two partners, KPMM and Chauke Business Enterprise (CBE). On the Mpumalanga section, a contract was awarded to a JV involving four companies: Raubex Construction, Themolo Business Enterprise, Khuluphala Tradings and Biz Afrika.

Although it was business unusual for big companies, they agree that it’s a great initiative. And it is clear that there will be no compromises on quality.

Kevin Padayachee, Operational Director for KPMM, said: “We’re happy to take on emerging companies, but they have to play ball and make use of such opportunities. That means no compromise on quality and reliability, so it’s important to attract the right partners for the JV.”

Emerging companies agree that the JVs mean empowerment and they have become more efficient and professional in their offerings.

Adam Chauke, owner and managing member of CBE, said: “It’s not easy to form partnerships with big companies and sometimes they don’t like to empower us for fear of competition. But thanks to SANRAL, the likes of KPMM are now required to approach us. It’s truly remarkable. It opens up the industry and affords us the opportunity to grow.” Through the JV, he is able to benefit from mentorship and shared resources.

From the experience gained on the project, the SMMEs will be able to increase their grading at the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) and compete for bigger contracts in future.

SANRAL will continue to support this initiative and start introducing it for all other projects going forward.

TSOLO COMMUNITY MEMBERS & YOUTH BENEFIT FROM PROJECT

MORE than 100 jobs have been created on the construction of a 5.5km walkway along national route R396 from Tsolo to the N2 intersection in the Eastern Cape. SANRAL is constructing the walkway to maintain and improve local pedestrian infrastructure and at the same time deliver holistic community development.

SANRAL Project Manager Lindelani Tsanwani said: “This project is intended to benefit the community in various ways. It will make pedestrians safer on the R396.”

Youth and SMME development is an important component of the project. “The project is offering training for SMMEs and their supervisors at NQF Level 4 and foremen at NQF Level 2. This will help the growth of the SMMEs and improve their operations,” he said.

According to Ntombikayise Mdlatana, an SMME contractor, this project was not just good for the community, but also for skills development. “This is a very important project for me, especially since my goal is to advance from level 1 CIDB grading to level 3,” he said.

Athulisise Dywili, another SMME contractor, said: “The project has given women an opportunity to participate in the field of construction, which was previously dominated by men.” Before working on the project Dywili was unemployed. “This will give me more skills and help me put food on the table for my family. It’s a nice opportunity for me.”

This project has created 120 jobs and benefits unskilled, unemployed locals. Apart from that, it aims to train 32 students in the field of construction. The SMMEs and students are not only trained in construction, but also in first aid, health and safety, and fire-fighting.

“The SANRAL project is benefiting TVET students, SMMEs and locals by enhancing their skills and assuring their safety when using the road from Tsolo,” said Tsanwani.
MORE than three million interlocking block pavers and concrete kerbs are being manufactured by the Whittlesea community and will be used to improve road conditions and safety along the R67 in the Eastern Cape.

A total of 123 unemployed locals have been hired by SANRAL to work on the project, which started in November 2016 and is scheduled to be completed in July 2018.

SANRAL Project Manager Lindelani Tsanwani said: “What makes this project special is that interlocking block pavers and concrete blocks are manufactured on site. We hope to leave a legacy in Whittlesea and identify potential residents who will attend intensive training on how to run a block-manufacturing business. We’re still in the process of identifying suitable candidates.”

The R67 was declared a national road in 2012 and SANRAL decided to upgrade it.

“The community development project is a component of various projects in Whittlesea. The interlocking blocks and concrete kerbs will be used to upgrade service roads within Tambo, Brakkloof, McBride and Who Can Tell Villages, which link up with the R67 at different, safer intersections,” said Tsanwani.

Lumka Soxunjwa from Tambo Village said: “The project means a lot to me. I used to work as a security guard but dreamt of working in the construction industry. I always wanted to upgrade the roads where we live and create jobs for unemployed people. I went for training and then in 2015 registered my company in Whittlesea. SANRAL has taught me so much! Now I can work with my hands.”

Thandeka Bobotyani from Brakkloof said: “The project is very helpful to me. I love working with people and always strive for a better living. Training at Inkanyiso Consulting helped me a lot and has been an eye-opener. The stipend we receive helped us buy electricity and put food on the table and it really improved our living conditions. The training taught me how to save money and also the importance of having a vision for where I see myself the next five years.”

Nomthunzi Vokwana from Tambo Village said: “I am very excited about working on the project and I really appreciate it a lot. I have been in catering for years and I was a cleaner, but I have always wanted to work in the construction industry and SANRAL and Inkanyiso Consulting answered my prayers. At first I didn’t know anything about construction, but the classes and training helped me a lot. At first I did not see where my business was going, but now I am able to save money.”

Mlondozi M Swaki from Brakkloof Village said: “I can see where my construction career is going because of this project. This training has shown us that as small companies we are not forgotten and SANRAL has shown that they really care about us. The business training has taught us how to work out pricing, skills in civil engineering, and also, when we are on site, we’re taught how to calculate quantities and compile our payment certificates. They really equipped us to do lot of things. I am so grateful to SANRAL and Inkanyiso Consulting for the opportunity.”

SANRAL provided training and construction management services to 18 local SMMEs involved in construction works along the N2 route section 19, between Mzeke and Mount Frere. The project, which entailed the construction of community access roads and pedestrian facilities, had a major impact on the local communities of Alfred Nzo and OR Tambo District Municipalities and created 180 jobs for local SMMEs and their employees.

Locals Nkululo Kwapuna and Nokizola Kobe, who worked on the project, explained how it benefited the community around Mount Frere.

Kwapuna, an SMME contractor, said that being selected among other contractors was a big achievement for him. “The entire process was good and we did not experience any payment problems or other challenges except for the rainy weather,” he said. “I had no idea how to read tender documents and I learned valuable skills. If I did not get skills training from SANRAL, getting construction work would be very difficult for me.”

Kobe, another SMME contractor, employed 10 labourers and two supervisors on her project. She said that the tendering classes were very useful. “Not only have I learned how to tender; I have also learned skills I did not have before. I learnt a lot about construction too,” she said. Project Manager Thabiso Ngovzana said the project was a great success. “It was even completed earlier than expected.”

The estimated completion date of the project was 22 March 2018, but because of the dedication of the workers, it was completed four months ahead of schedule.

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SANRAL provided training and construction management services to 18 local SMMEs involved in construction works along the N2 route section 19, between Mzeke and Mount Frere. The project, which entailed the construction of community access roads and pedestrian facilities, had a major impact on the local communities of Alfred Nzo and OR Tambo District Municipalities and created 180 jobs for local SMMEs and their employees.

Locals Nkululo Kwapuna and Nokizola Kobe, who worked on the project, explained how it benefitted the community around Mount Frere.

Kwapuna, an SMME contractor, said that being selected among other contractors was a big achievement for him. “The entire process was good and we did not experience any payment problems or other challenges except for the rainy weather,” he said. “I had no idea how to read tender documents and I learned valuable skills. If I did not get skills training from SANRAL, getting construction work would be very difficult for me.”

Kobe, another SMME contractor, employed 10 labourers and two supervisors on her project. She said that the tendering classes were very useful. “Not only have I learned how to tender; I have also learned skills I did not have before. I learnt a lot about construction too,” she said. Project Manager Thabiso Ngovzana said the project was a great success. “It was even completed earlier than expected.”

The estimated completion date of the project was 22 March 2018, but because of the dedication of the workers, it was completed four months ahead of schedule.
SNAPSHOTS

R38M COMMUNITY ACCESS ROAD PROJECT

The construction of community access roads in Lusikisiki is set to benefit many poverty-stricken rural communities in the area. The project, which is located within the Ingquza Hill local municipality, includes the construction of community access roads and haul roads near Lusikisiki. Over 4.5km will be surfaced roads through the community.

Via the development of local contractors and the use of local suppliers, it is anticipated that the majority of the approximately R38m set aside for the project will remain within the community.

SIDEWALKS ON N8

A group of 10 locally selected SMMEs participated in SANRAL's Training and Construction Management Services Programme for the construction of pedestrian facilities in Aliwal North. This project, situated in the Walter Sisulu local municipality, included the use of labour-intensive construction methods along the R58.

This project delivered a community development programme that allowed for the transfer of infrastructure and construction-related skills to local SMMEs.

UPGRADED PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES ON N2

The new and upgraded pedestrian facilities spanning approximately 10km along section 30 of the N2 between Nyalaar River and Hluhluwe River not only create jobs, but will result in a much safer environment for pedestrians. The main purpose of this project is to extend existing walkways and repair deteriorated portions of the walkway. The new walkways will be 2m wide. New precast culverts will be provided at low crossings and guardrails and bollards will be erected where necessary. Gabion walls will be also constructed at areas where there are steep slopes.

PEDESTRIANS using the sidewalks that have been constructed along a section of the N8 in Mantsopa local municipality in the Free State are feeling safer walking along this busy stretch of road and many are grateful for the development. SANRAL’s Eastern Region Project Manager, Rajesh Dookie, said that SMME sub-contractors who were employed on the project exhibited an eagerness to learn and executed the work on schedule, with exceptional quality. The construction is worth R3.1m.

Samuel Mpele of K5 Mpele Construction said that he was “happy and proud” to have been involved in the project. He employed 12 people during eight months.

David Malapo, owner of DNC Construction, said he had gained valuable knowledge and experience working on his first SANRAL project. “I used eight employees on this project. I look forward to more work from SANRAL so that I can create meaningful jobs,” he said.

SANRAL EMPOWERS NMB COMMUNITY

SANRAL’s construction of the R75 community access roads in the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality had a strong focus on empowering the local community. The aim of the project was to upgrade the existing dirt roads in Joe Slovo township. SANRAL Southern Region Manager Mbulelo Peterson said: “Local residents played a crucial role in the planning and construction.”

Local transport companies, contractors and labour were used during the project.

LONG-TERM JOB CREATION FOR EASTERN CAPE VILLAGES

A long-term job creation initiative for the production of precast concrete products within three villages in Whittlesea in the Eastern Cape is creating opportunities for youth. Forty local youth were trained up to NQF levels 2 and 4 and the skills of learners who had previously completed a skills programme were upgraded to a full learnership qualification.

“I am the first person in my family to reach a tertiary institution and SANRAL made me realise that I can be an example in my family, community and the world,” said Asiphe Mzungulwa, one of the 28 TVET students.

Ntombekhaya Ncedani expressed her gratitude too. “The day I received a call from Inkanyiso Consulting to start work, I was so excited and even my mother was crying tears of joy,” she said.

TRAINING AND LEARNERSHIP IN ALIWAL NORTH

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COMMUNITY development is everything SANRAL does beyond building and maintaining roads. It’s about delivering services in the wider sense, said SANRAL CEO Skhumbuzo Macozoma. “We have technical excellence when it comes to building roads. But people are asking: ‘How is this relevant to me? How do I benefit? How is it changing my life?’ This is so important that it will now be our focus to demonstrate that relevance,” he said.

The agency will expand and intensify its community development programmes, from which local people will benefit. This means prioritising SMMEs, with a focus on local ones with black and female owners, hiring local labour, training the labour and increasing the skill levels of SMME personnel.

This is true of all road projects. In every case, communities will be engaged to establish what their needs are. There will also be stand-alone projects, again with community involvement.

In addition, SANRAL will maintain its scholarship programme for schools – not just to increase the number of engineers, but because South Africa needs more learners to make it through school so that they can move on to tertiary studies.

Equally it will maintain its bursary programme for students, more narrowly focused on producing engineers – again, not just for SANRAL, but for the country. This is also true of its internship programme and its Technical Excellence Academy in Port Elizabeth, where engineering graduates are given the opportunity to get hands-on experience, obtain the necessary registration at professional level and become better able to serve their communities and the country as a whole.

SANRAL’s approach, explained Macozoma, is based on the view that it has a wider role in society. It is committed to the social goals of the government, including economic transformation and the building of a more equal, cohesive society.

It therefore uses every procurement opportunity to advance these objectives.

**ACHIEVEMENTS 2016/17**

- **Value of work performed by SMMEs**: R4.6bn
- **Value of work by black-owned companies**: R2.1bn
- **Work opportunities for individuals**: 39,809
- **Training for individuals**: 4,257
- **Road safety education for individuals**: 185,529
- **Community development projects worth**: R257m

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How does SANRAL decide which projects to support?
The community development projects chosen are all related to the SANRAL road network and construction or maintenance activities. The national road network stretches across South Africa and benefits broader developmental objectives such as economic growth and job creation. But it is also important to demonstrate the specific benefits of these projects to local communities who live close to the road network. People are justifiably asking questions about the relevance of construction projects. How will they benefit locals? How are they changing lives?

What value does SANRAL add?
The national roads agency has a clear commitment to the transformation of the engineering and construction sectors. Firstly, we are committed to breaking down monopolies in supply chains and ensuring the broad-based participation of black South Africans.

Secondly, we are putting in place clear guidelines and structures to ensure local communities benefit directly – from the procurement of goods and services from local suppliers to giving preference to the creation of local jobs.

How can I participate in a local community development project? In each area where SANRAL is involved, we will set up project liaison committees (PLCs) to facilitate the involvement of local communities and enterprises. Companies or groups who want to participate are advised to approach their local PLCs for more information.

How will local businesses benefit when it comes to procurement? SANRAL is engaging with original equipment manufacturers and suppliers to ensure that black individuals, contractors, suppliers and entities participate in fields such as manufacturing, distribution, installation and maintenance. In addition, it will promote the use of innovative materials that can offer opportunities for previously disadvantaged people to participate in these fields.

Will SANRAL provide support for emerging enterprises? SANRAL aims to help grow emerging black-owned enterprises through construction projects.

We want them to become contractors in their own right who will be able to bid for major projects in the broader engineering and construction sectors. Each SANRAL project is accompanied by a programme for skills development, training and empowerment.

Will SANRAL’s guidelines also apply to its contractors? All our contractors and service providers are required to provide us with clear transformation plans that outline their own commitment to the participation of black South Africans. They will also have to use a SANRAL-approved database of subcontractors that will be drawn up in consultation with PLCs.

SANRAL will promote joint ventures, consortiums and partnerships on all its projects to ensure inclusivity, participation and the growth of black businesses.

What are the implications of SANRAL's Transformation Policy and Horizon 2030 for the agency’s broad business objectives? The Transformation Policy will apply to all SANRAL activities – in the construction and engineering sectors, and also in services provided in fields such as property development, information and communications technology, finance and audit, legal and professional services, marketing, advertising and communications.

What benefits will the new policies bring to education and training? SANRAL will set specific targets for scholarships, bursaries and internships to grow the pool of young professionals. We will also continue to support educational programmes and partnerships with universities and education departments to improve the quality of teaching in subjects such as maths, science and technology.

Our Family Maths and Family Science initiative, in partnership with the University of the Free State and the Department of Basic Education (DBE), are good examples of such programmes. Schools or communities who want to participate in these programmes are advised to get more information from the district offices of the DBE.