

MILESTONES IN MOTION

2019-2024

EASTERN REGION



transport
Department:
Transport
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





“While recognising SANRAL’s outstanding and world-class work, there is one aspect of SANRAL’s operations that goes almost unnoticed. SANRAL transforms lives. SANRAL provides optimism. SANRAL invigorates. SANRAL facilitates a new future. SANRAL constructs vital infrastructure connecting communities, municipalities and villages.”

**Sindisiwe Chikunga,
Minister of Transport**

About this publication

‘Milestones in Motion’ embodies SANRAL’s commitment to propelling South Africa forward and leaving its mark on the road to progress. Over the past five years, the Agency’s flagship projects have redefined infrastructure, turning aspirations into realities across the nation.

Beyond bitumen and concrete, SANRAL’s initiatives have also brought tangible change. By empowering small businesses and fostering inclusivity, particularly among previously disadvantaged groups, SANRAL has become a catalyst for socio-economic transformation.

As we navigate towards a future defined by progress, this publication serves as a testament to our journey of building not just roads, but avenues of opportunity and bridges to a more equitable and prosperous South Africa.



Q&A

with Regional Manager **Dumisani Nkabinde**



Looking back over the past five years, what accomplishments make you proud when it comes to enhancing infrastructure roads in the region?

We have ensured that transformation, as a pillar of SANRAL, has been expanded right across the road construction sector. We have been uncompromising in pushing this policy.

We embarked on massive infrastructure projects in KwaZulu-Natal – the N2/N3, EB Cloete and the Mount Edgecombe Interchange. These are world-class projects that have generated interest from countries on the continent and beyond.

South Africa’s prowess in handling large-scale infrastructure projects was recently showcased when the Minister of Transport, Sindisiwe Chikunga, hosted her counterpart from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The delegation visited the Mount Edgecombe Interchange, which has been described as ‘a veritable engineering work of art’. SANRAL is actively collaborating and sharing its engineering expertise with the rest of Africa.

The N2/N3 also stands out among SANRAL’s endeavours in the Eastern Region. Serving as a crucial artery linking economic hubs across the country, the N2/N3 holds particular importance as it directly connects to the Durban Harbour, which is the economic lifeblood of the country. The ongoing upgrades to the N2/N3 are indispensable for sustaining our economy, especially considering the substantial freight transport volumes these networks carry.

The extensive upgrading of the N2 and N3 is a long-term project, expected to span eight to 10 years. Construction has been in progress for the past three years. It forms part of the national government’s key Strategic Integrated Projects, SIP2: Durban-Free State-Gauteng Logistics and Industrial Corridor.

What hurdles has the region encountered in developing infrastructure, and how were they overcome to keep pushing ahead with delivery?

Our immediate challenge is the climate crisis, which is affecting our speed in upgrades and new construction due to adverse weather conditions. The 2022 floods wreaked havoc on our road infrastructure. Although frustrating and beyond our control, we are determined to move forward without compromising on standards.

Last year’s withdrawal of the Preferential Procurement Policy (PPP) had an impact on SANRAL’s ability to deliver on its mandate. More than 77 projects were halted due to legal challenges from some companies.

The subsequent implementation of an interim PPP in November restored our focus on delivering a high-quality road network to meet the needs of all motorists and communities. With our projects now in the market, we’re optimistic about renewed industry growth and exciting developments on the horizon.

Which projects have truly touched and benefitted local communities? How have these initiatives improved connectivity and contributed to the region?

The N2/N3 upgrade project is estimated to produce over 15,000 jobs over its duration. Supply chain monopolies will be broken down and participation of historically disadvantaged individuals will be ensured in line with SANRAL’s procurement policies. Local communities will benefit directly from the procurement of goods and services from local suppliers. The upgrades will also improve safety.

So far, 3,057 jobs have been created on the N2/N3 programme, with total expenditure on labour standing at R262 million. There are a number of small, medium and micro-sized enterprises (SMMEs) currently working on the various projects. Once work is complete, motorists will be able to seamlessly travel along the N2 and N3 with reduced delays. The total cost of the N2 and N3 upgrades is approximately R48 billion (R29 billion for the N3 and R19 billion for the N2).

What’s the roadmap ahead? What are the main goals for raising the bar for road infrastructure and ensuring the wellbeing of communities?

The N2/N3 and EB Cloete Interchange stand as SANRAL’s most significant ongoing projects. As each phase unfolds, it creates new growth avenues for SMMEs and fosters local community development. With more projects released into the market, we foresee a period of intense growth and development.

SANRAL’s initiatives also serve as platforms for skills enhancement for local communities and SMMEs. Participants can progress through various Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) gradings, positioning themselves to bid for more substantial projects. Our primary objective for the future is to ensure more participation by SMMEs and local communities in the sector, enabling them to generate revenue and contribute to the overall development of the region.

YEARS OF IMPACT



MARCH

SANRAL wins ISSA Award for Excellence for its Freeway Management System in the Western Cape.

2017



FEBRUARY

Construction begins on the ground-breaking Msikaba Bridge in the Eastern Cape.

2018



MAY

Upgrade to the Hammsdale Interchange on the N3 reaches completion.

2019



DECEMBER

SANRAL's Engineering 4.0 research facility opens its doors at the University of Pretoria.

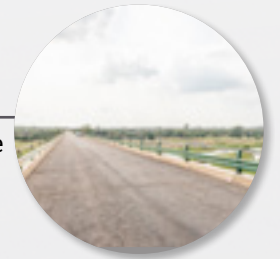
OCTOBER

R1.14bn Mount Edgecombe Interchange in Durban officially opens.



OCTOBER

Olifants River Bridge in the Western Cape wins Fulton Award for excellence in concrete construction.



SEPTEMBER

R377m Pamponnek Road opens in the North West.



OCTOBER

First N3 package between Dardanelles and Lynnfield Park valued at R1.48bn commences.



DECEMBER

International Road Federation presents SANRAL with a 'Global Road Safety Award' for outstanding commitment to safer roads.



DECEMBER

Polokwane Eastern Ring Road opens to traffic.

2022

OCTOBER

R640m Musina Ring Road opens to traffic in Limpopo.



NOVEMBER

R375m Karino Interchange project on the N4 in Mbombela reaches completion.



2022/2023

SANRAL invests R7.2bn in road infrastructure in the financial year.



MARCH

SANRAL receives a Batho Pele Service Excellence and Innovation Award for excellent service delivery.

2023

MAY

N3 Ashburton Interchange project breaks ground.



SEPTEMBER

R216m Montrose Interchange on the N4 in Mpumalanga opens to traffic.

Flagship project

> N2/N3 corridor upgrades



The N2/N3 corridor upgrades in KwaZulu-Natal are integral to SANRAL's commitment to improve vital routes connecting South Africa's leading industrial hubs. The routes form part of the national government's Strategic Integrated Projects (SIPs) – SIP 2: Durban-Free State-Gauteng logistics and industrial corridor – which are aimed at improving the quality of life for all South Africans.

Expected to take between eight to ten years to complete, these ambitious upgrades will foster seamless connectivity along these critical logistics corridors and improve access to Durban's export and import facilities. They will also ease traffic congestion and increase safety on the roads.

The upgrade of the N2 will involve a 55km stretch of road from Lovu River on the South Coast to Umdloti on the North Coast. The N3 upgrade will focus on an 80km section from Durban to Pietermaritzburg. The upgrades will include widening the N2 and N3 carriageways, with four or five lanes in each direction, and the reconfiguration of most major interchanges.



This massive project is divided into many phases. Projects awarded so far include:

N2:

- Kwamashu to uMdloti
- EB Cloete Interchange

N3:

- Westville to Paradise Valley
- Key Ridge to Hammarisdale
- Ashburton to Murray Road
- Murray Road to New England Road
- Cato Ridge to the Dardanelles Interchange
- Dardanelles Interchange to Lynnfield Park
- Lynnfield Park to Ashburton Interchange



“These massive projects are a testament to SANRAL's application and adherence to world-class standards while utilising brilliant minds, skills and expertise to achieve government's uncompromising objectives of improving the quality of our people's lives through our road networks.”

**Sindisiwe Chikunga,
Minister of Transport**



The project includes the **upgrading of the EB Cloete Interchange**, one of the most iconic interchanges in the country. Popularly known as 'spaghetti junction', it was completed in 1970 and is now on the cusp of a major transformation, including the construction of a **spectacular arch** that will no doubt become a Durban landmark.



Flagship project

A story of impact: N2/N3 upgrades



The N2/N3 upgrades will usher in great benefits for the KwaZulu-Natal province and the country as a whole, with improved mobility, job creation, economic growth and more. Investment in road infrastructure on this scale, especially in rural and underdeveloped communities, provides huge opportunities for alleviating poverty and reducing inequality.

“We are investing about R29 billion in the N3 and R19 billion in the N2 upgrades to unlock the route between Durban and Gauteng. The port of Durban facilitates about 60% of all exports and all these investments are being done with a view to open access in and out of Durban as one of the most important infrastructure projects in South Africa.”

Reginald Demana,
SANRAL CEO



15

Number of work packages on the N3 programme



15 THOUSAND

Expected jobs opportunities on the entire N2/N3 project



R14.4 BILLION

Expected spend on Black-owned enterprises on the N2/N3 upgrades



70,000-150,000

Number of vehicles carried by the N2 each day



R24 BILLION

Value of the project packages currently under construction



45,000-120,000

Number of vehicles carried by the N3 each day



R5 BILLION

Value of the EB Cloete Interchange upgrade



R3.8 BILLION

Expected spend on local labour on the N2/N3 upgrades



R48 BILLION

Value of the N2/N3 project



“The N3 upgrade project will create jobs and opportunities to benefit the local and business communities. It will inject economic growth into the municipality, thus alleviating poverty and the unemployment rate, especially for women, youth and people with disabilities.”

Sindisiwe Chikunga,
Minister of Transport

Flagship project

Championing transformation: N2/N3 upgrades

Transformation is at the core of SANRAL's operations, and every effort is being made to ensure targeted enterprises and individuals from previously disadvantaged groups are afforded the opportunity to participate meaningfully in the upgrades of the N2 and N3 routes.



Simphiwe Mhlongo

Subcontractor

By making a bold career change, Simphiwe Mhlongo has been able to improve her own life and provide opportunities for the 11 employees of her company.

Formerly an events coordinator struggling to make ends meet, she ventured into construction with the assistance of the South African Women in Construction initiative, establishing Sister's Brain Construction. Now a subcontractor for two major firms, MMP Contractors and Rumdel Construction, she's been able to procure work on the N3 Ashburton Interchange and the associated R103 Pope Ellis Drive upgrades.

Based in Lynnfield Park, near Pietermaritzburg in KwaZulu-Natal, she deeply appreciates SANRAL's local impact.

"The best part is that the workers are from the area. This means that locals are getting a chance to uplift themselves. It's a real blessing to them, as well as to me."

Mduduzi Jijana

Company owner

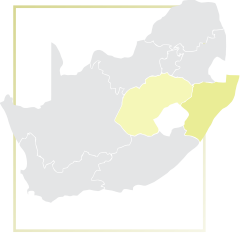
Mduduzi Jijana, owner of the Disability Empowerment Movement, is among the many beneficiaries of the N3 highway upgrade.

Thanks to SANRAL's support, Jijana, who lives with a disability, has been able to extend opportunities to others. His company employs 13 people and has been installing road signs between Hilton and Pietermaritzburg.

The project has been life-changing. "As people living with a disability, we have shown that we are capable. We no longer rely on grants. We do the actual work," he says proudly.

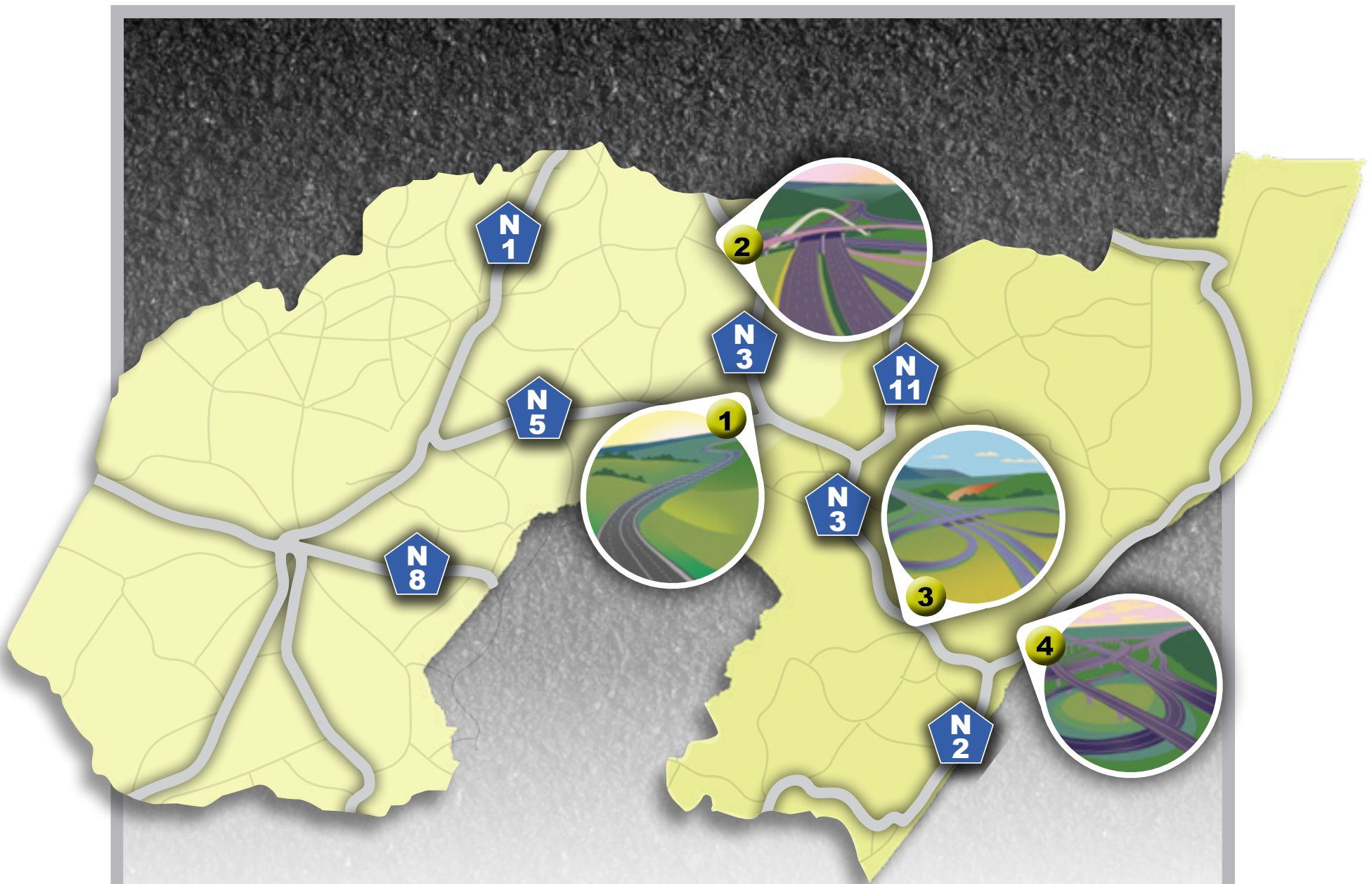
SANRAL has ensured that 30% of the work on the upgrade is assigned to local companies, creating many opportunities for small businesses owned by previously disadvantaged people, including entrepreneurs living with a disability.





Flagship Projects

From the grassy plains and thriving agricultural industry of the **Free State** to the tropical coastlines, busy ports and industrial hubs of **KwaZulu-Natal**, SANRAL's **Eastern Region** is an area of significant economic importance. Our flagship infrastructure projects in the region are integral to fostering sustainable development and enhancing connectivity.



1

Van Reenen's Pass

Van Reenen's Pass on the N3 is one of the busiest routes in the country, connecting Johannesburg and Durban.

2

N3 upgrade

The multi-year N3 upgrade will focus on a 79.3km stretch of road from Durban to Pietermaritzburg, including adding the lanes in each direction and reconfiguring most major interchanges. See page 4 for more on this pivotal project.

3

Hammarsdale Interchange

The upgrading of the Hammarsdale Interchange between Durban and Pietermaritzburg was completed in 2020, strengthening the national transport link between South Africa's main industrial hubs.

4

Mount Edgecombe Interchange

The R1.1 billion interchange was one of the largest projects undertaken by SANRAL in KwaZulu-Natal. See page 8 for more on this groundbreaking build.

Flagship project

> Mount Edgecombe Interchange



The now-iconic Mount Edgecombe Interchange north of Durban was officially opened by the then Minister of Transport, Blade Nzimande, in November 2018. It's been described as "a veritable civil engineering work of art", but beyond its aesthetic appeal, it also plays a pivotal role in alleviating traffic congestion, fostering road safety and serving as a crucial catalyst for business activity.

One of the largest projects ever undertaken by SANRAL at the time, the completed four-level interchange transformed the local landscape. Construction was jointly funded by SANRAL and the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport.

Located in one of the fastest-developing areas of South Africa, the project took place under uniquely challenging circumstances, with heavy demands from existing traffic and a congested site.

The upgrade included the implementation of directional ramps, eliminating the need for controlled signalisation, thus ensuring the free flow of traffic in all directions. It also featured one of the longest bridge viaducts ever constructed in South Africa. Referred to as B0215, it has a deck length of 947m, which makes it one of the longest incrementally launched bridges in the Southern Hemisphere.

Today, the Mount Edgecombe Interchange is an impressive and thrilling structure, and the multiple engineering achievements behind this mammoth project are testament to the exceptional skill and abilities of the entire construction team.



“The Mount Edgecombe Interchange is an example of the world-class engineering that exists on our continent, which we as SANRAL can share with the rest of our neighbours in Africa.”

**Reginald Demana,
SANRAL CEO**



The remarkable quality of work on this project earned the prestigious **Fulton Award** from the Concrete Society of Southern Africa in the category of 'Civil engineering structure greater than R100 million'. This category acknowledges projects that utilise totally new materials, techniques, technologies or designs, using concrete as the principal material.

Flagship project

A story of impact: Mount Edgecombe Interchange

The Mount Edgecombe Interchange project significantly enhanced safety and mobility, reducing congestion and improving travel efficiency. But beyond its transportation benefits, the project also unlocked major economic opportunities for local businesses and communities.



803

Number of contractors at project peak



80

Number of designers engaged during the peak of the design phase



31

Number of subcontractors engaged



R59 MILLION

Value of work performed by SMMEs



0

Number of roads permanently closed during construction



R240 MILLION

Amount spent on wages



R1.14 BILLION

Total project value



9

Number of interchange bridges



“ We needed a team. Engineers, contractors, subcontractors, dedicated and skilled general workers - they all made up hundreds of heads and hands working together to execute a massive feat in South African engineering history. ”

Jeremiah Etti,
Section Manager

Empowering through education



SANRAL recognises the pivotal role of education in shaping a sustainable and thriving South Africa. Its initiatives in this area over the past five years have been marked by a deliberate shift towards greater inclusivity and more comprehensive impact.

The shift can be clearly seen in the Agency's Scholarships and Bursaries Programme. While civil engineering remains a key focus, policy changes have facilitated the inclusion of learners across more diverse disciplines.

Bursaries are targeted towards deserving applicants who meet the requirements in a range of fields relevant to SANRAL's core business, from human resources and environmental science to law, electrical and electronic engineering, computer science, mechatronics, and many others. In the past reporting year, the Agency also expanded its educational reach beyond 'traditional' universities to include tertiary institutions considered 'previously disadvantaged'.

In a concerted effort to address gender disparities in the built environment industry, SANRAL has increased awards to female applicants, actively working towards greater gender representation.

The SANRAL Scholarships Programme extends support to high school learners from previously disadvantaged backgrounds, irrespective of their chosen subjects. The recently implemented Scholarships Policy underscores the commitment to inclusivity.

In addition to bursaries and scholarships, SANRAL also runs the Technical Excellence Academy (TEA), which has been instrumental in shaping the professional landscape. With a comprehensive five-year training programme, real road design projects and dedicated mentors, the TEA has contributed to the accelerated development of 121 engineers to date, with 53 candidates actively in training.

SANRAL's collaborative partnerships with universities across South Africa not only support innovation and research excellence but also contribute to talent development in science, technology and engineering, reinforcing the Agency's role as a catalyst for progress and knowledge-sharing.

Through its extensive educational initiatives, SANRAL is not only building technical expertise but also nurturing a diverse and skilled workforce for the benefit of the nation.

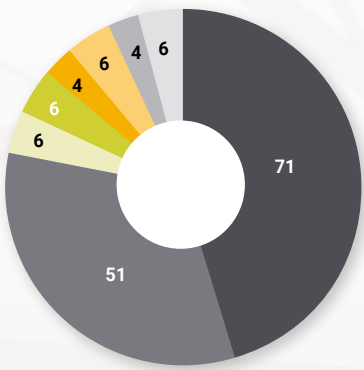
Bursaries in 2022



Scholarships in 2022

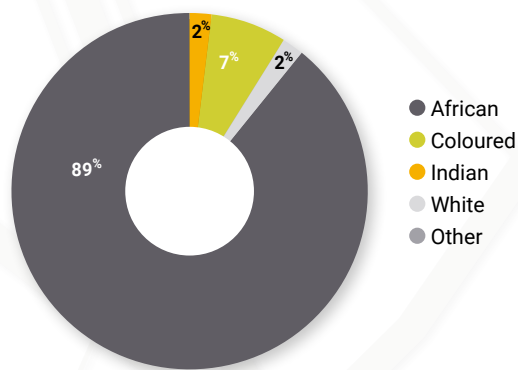


Number of bursary recipients in 2022 by population group



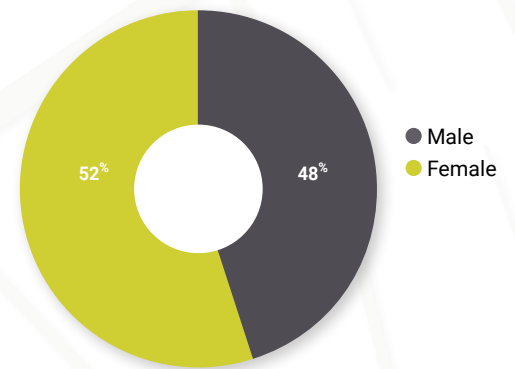
- African female ● African male
- Coloured female ● Coloured male
- Indian female ● Indian male
- White female ● White male

Percentage of scholarship recipients in 2022 by population group



- African
- Coloured
- Indian
- White
- Other

Percentage of graduate engineers by gender



- Male
- Female



Key to a bright future: Shahir Singh's success story

SANRAL's educational initiatives have paved the way for success for individuals like Shahir Singh, a Durban resident and alumnus of the Agency's Scholarships and Bursaries Programme.

Now a candidate engineer at SANRAL, Shahir stands as a testament to the effectiveness of these initiatives. "SANRAL gave me a golden key to a bright future," he says.

Reflecting on his journey, he highlights the potential of the engineering profession to bring about positive social change. "Now that I understand civil engineering, I really understand the value we bring to society as professionals."

He's also keen to offer encouragement to fellow aspiring engineers. "Your journey will have some failure along the way, but don't lose heart. Pick yourself up and focus on your future."

Engaging for impact



In the realm of road infrastructure, effective stakeholder engagement is vital. Establishing communication and collaboration with communities, local authorities and other affected groups helps to prevent conflict, streamlines project execution and ensures a more inclusive approach to project planning.

Over the past six years, SANRAL has significantly reshaped its approach to stakeholder engagement, spurred on by the introduction of its Horizon 2030 strategy in 2017. This shift represented a notable departure from the Agency's previous practices.

Before Horizon 2030, this area of SANRAL's work lacked a coherent strategy, leaving project managers and engineers without a comprehensive understanding of stakeholder needs. Engagement often took the form of a reactive response to emerging issues, resulting in project interruptions and contractual penalties. The significance of engaging with communities and stakeholders early and often became increasingly apparent.

Horizon 2030 marked a major turning point, establishing 'Stakeholders' as one of the pivotal pillars in SANRAL's strategic framework. The Agency adopted a more systematic approach, including the identification, mapping and engagement of diverse stakeholders. International standards and benchmarks, notably the AAA1000 Stakeholder Standards, became guiding principles.

All of SANRAL's projects are now guided by a 14-Point Plan that prioritises community engagement and SANRAL's Transformation Policy, with the goal of advancing women, youth, people with disabilities and Black contractors. A project liaison committee (PLC) is established for each project to facilitate communication, subcontracting and procurement.



The impact of these changes has been apparent on projects like the large-scale upgrade of the N2/N3 Corridor in KwaZulu-Natal, a critical venture for the Agency valued at R48 billion. Projects of this magnitude demand extensive collaboration and engagement with stakeholders to ensure successful implementation and broad socio-economic benefits.

Recognising the vast economic impact on smaller businesses, the project has been structured into detailed design and construction packages. This creates significant opportunities for small, medium and micro-sized enterprises (SMMEs) to actively participate.

SANRAL has conducted comprehensive sessions with thousands of entrepreneurs and job-seekers in Pietermaritzburg, Hammarsdale, Durban and other surrounding areas. These engagement sessions aim to share crucial information about business and job opportunities, offer insights into potential contracts and provide assistance on tender submissions. SMMEs have also been given opportunities to engage with various industry bodies and key players in the construction sector, fostering a collaborative environment for skills development.

As the upgrades unfold, SANRAL's stakeholder engagement efforts are helping communities to recognise that road infrastructure not only connects places but also serves as a conduit for shared economic benefits and prosperity.

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WHO'S STIMULATING OUR ECONOMY?

Looking at the 44 898 work opportunities created, and the 5 920 individuals trained over the last 5 years: **We Showed Up.**

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