

MILESTONES IN MOTION

2019-2024

NORTHERN 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 Progress Hlahla



Looking back over the past five years, what are some of the accomplishments that make you proud when it comes to enhancing infrastructure and improving roads in the region?

We have delivered some great infrastructure projects, including the Moloto Road project, the R512 Pampoennek route, the Polokwane Ring Road and the Musina Ring Road, among many others. SANRAL’s annual reports clearly show the impact we have had in the country. We have also contributed significantly to the participation of small, medium and micro-sized enterprises (SMMEs) in SANRAL contracts and job creation.

Demonstrating the significant positive impact of public-private partnerships, the region also delivered major projects on the vital N4 Toll Route in collaboration with its concession partners, Bakwena and Trans African Concessions (TRAC).

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

Security of construction sites remains a major issue, with a significant number of our projects facing stoppages. We are also dealing with litigation, which often delays projects or leads to cancellations. We continue to partner with law enforcement in securing our sites. We also participate in quite a number of forums where we engage with industry stakeholders in order to limit the risk of litigation. We are focusing on the need to transform the industry and ensure that Black-owned companies have a bigger share of the SANRAL contracts we issue.



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

The ring roads on the N1 in both Polokwane and Musina have eased traffic congestion through the CBDs. This has led to significant reductions in travel times for motorists. These projects have also contributed in a big way to the economic participation of local SMMEs and labour, which has assisted in poverty alleviation. We have also improved road safety on the Moloto Road project through the upgrades that we have been able to implement. While more work still needs to be done, we can already see improvements and impact.

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

We are embarking on an accelerated infrastructure build in all provinces. This entails spending over R10 billion in each of the four regions in the next few years. This will contribute significantly to local economies and will help local businesses to participate in the mainstream economy. We will also be exploring the development of intelligent road systems and optimising our infrastructure for autonomous (driverless) vehicles.



YEARS OF IMPACT

2017

2018

2019

2020

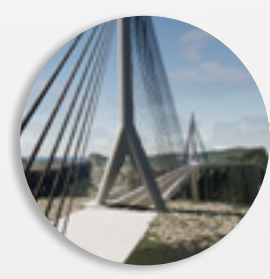
2022

2023



MARCH

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



FEBRUARY

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



MAY

Upgrade to the **Hammarisdale Interchange** on the N3 reaches completion.



DECEMBER

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



DECEMBER

Polokwane Eastern Ring Road opens to traffic.



OCTOBER

State-of-the-art **Huguenot Tunnel** lighting upgrade completed in the Western Cape.



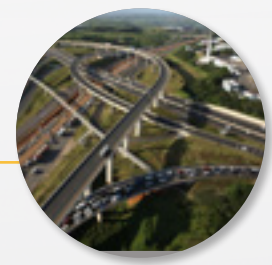
MARCH

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



SEPTEMBER

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



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.



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.



MAY

N3 Ashburton Interchange project breaks ground.

Flagship project

> Karino Interchange



The R375 million Karino Interchange on the N4 National Road in Mbombela, Mpumalanga, provides a link between Mbombela and Kanyamazane, and a direct link from the R514 to the N4. The R514 also provides access to the Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport.

The previous T-junction intersection was under pressure to handle the high traffic volumes experienced on both the N4 and the R538, particularly during peak hours. This also made it difficult for vehicles to join the N4 at night, in misty conditions and rainfall, as the ability of motorists to correctly estimate the distance of oncoming traffic was compromised.

High commuter traffic volumes and the poor safety record at this intersection led to the decision to upgrade it to a grade-separated interchange with on- and off-ramps and a bridge to separate cross-traffic and through traffic and thus ease traffic flow. Construction started in November 2019, and was completed in May 2022. Trans African Concessions (TRAC) manages the N4 Toll Route on behalf of SANRAL.

It starts at the Solomon Mahlangu off-ramp in Gauteng and ends in Maputo, Mozambique.

The N4 Toll Route is the catalyst for trade and investment between the three South African land-locked provinces of Gauteng, Limpopo and Mpumalanga, as well as neighbouring countries.

These three provinces are rich in natural resources, and the corridor links them directly to international markets through the Maputo Port. The N4 Toll Route also links the City of Johannesburg and Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality to the port through the N12.

The then Minister of Transport, Fikile Mbalula, said the N4 Toll Route is a favourite among transporters because of its world-class road infrastructure, which makes it reliable, convenient and safe.



“ When you see trucks, cars and buses moving ... that is literally the economy moving. We think that roads are a critical factor that drives economic development – and behind all of that is SANRAL. ”

Reginald Demana,
SANRAL CEO

Flagship project

A story of impact: Karino Interchange

Beyond the physical structures, SANRAL's initiatives serve as a catalyst for job creation, skills development and community empowerment. On the Karino Interchange project, SMMEs were given extensive training, development and mentoring, equipping them with tools and knowledge to access bigger and better opportunities in future.

Main contractor Raubex Group Limited introduced labour-intensive training to capacitate local labour by giving them practical work experience before formal training from an accredited training institution.



“Transformation is not lip service, but it is the heartbeat of SANRAL, because we believe in the development and the capabilities of our people.”

Melba Geca,
SANRAL Stakeholder Coordinator
in Mpumalanga



R375 MILLION

Project value



R116.24 MILLION

Work set aside for SMMEs



44

SMMEs subcontracted



R22.34 MILLION

Wages for local labour



422

Local labour
employed



236

males



42

females



143

youth



1

person
living with a
disability



“Our message is simple: we are committed to engaging, consulting and partnering with our stakeholders and communities to ensure that there is a positive impact on everyone affected by the work that we do.”

Progress Hlahla,
SANRAL Northern Region Manager

Flagship project

Championing transformation: Karino Interchange

Transformation is at the core of SANRAL's operations, and every effort was made to ensure targeted enterprises were afforded the opportunity to participate meaningfully on the Karino Interchange project. SANRAL also paves the way for young talent to enter the construction sector to gain valuable skills and experience.



Sizakele Mnisi
Junior Engineer

For Sizakele Mnisi, a young resident hailing from the town of Kabokweni in the Ehlanzeni District Municipality of Mpumalanga, and armed with a background in civil engineering, participation in the project was a life-changing experience. Her responsibilities included quality assurance and assistance with quantity surveying.

"I chose construction to be helpful to society – to serve. Working on this SANRAL project has made me see the importance of being around high-quality construction ... to always strive for more."

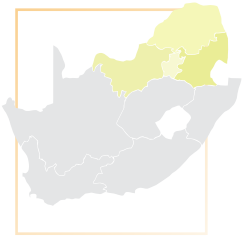
Gabriel Botela
Raubex Construction

SANRAL's Transformation Policy sets clearly defined targets for Black subcontractors and suppliers to participate in all projects. As the main contractor for the Karino Interchange upgrade, Raubex Construction was committed to achieving these objectives.

Raubex's Gabriel Botela played a crucial role in ensuring that the surrounding community and local small, medium and micro-sized enterprises (SMMEs) were actively engaged in the construction work. Under Botela's guidance, 44 SMMEs and a total of 843 individuals from the community benefitted directly from the project.

He notes that special efforts were made to include individuals from previously disadvantaged groups. "Sixty-two women and people with disabilities benefitted from work opportunities," he notes.





Flagship Projects

From big-game territory in **Limpopo** and **Mpumalanga** to the 'platinum province' of the **North West** and the economic hub of **Gauteng**, SANRAL's Northern Region spans some of the country's most vital transport routes. SANRAL's flagship projects in the region are opening up pathways for economic development, connectivity and sustainable growth.



1

Moloto Road

Traversing 162km across Gauteng, Mpumalanga and Limpopo, this R4.5 billion project will transform what is known as one of the most dangerous stretches of road in South Africa.

2

Polokwane Ring Road

This R800 million project was completed in 2020 and involved the construction of a new northbound carriageway.

3

Musina Ring Road

This R640 million project has eased congestion between Musina and the Beitbridge border post while transforming road transit between South Africa and neighbouring countries. For more on this upgrade, see page 8.

4

Karino Interchange

The R375 million Karino Interchange on the N4 National Road in Mbombela, Mpumalanga, provides a key link between Mbombela and Kanyamazane, and a direct link from the R514 to the N4. For more on this project, see page 4.

5

Montrose Interchange

The newly opened Montrose Interchange is a major feature of the N4 Maputo Corridor, which connects Mpumalanga, Gauteng and North West to Mozambique.

Flagship project

> Musina Ring Road



Musina is a tourism hub and perfectly located for cross-border trade, especially with Zimbabwe. Traffic congestion had always been a problem in the area, with over 1,000 heavy-duty trucks and vehicles passing through Musina CBD every day. Heavy vehicles added to the traffic congestion in town, while also creating conflict with local traffic and pedestrians.

This R640 million project entailed construction of about 8km of brand-new single-carriageway freeway, with one lane in each direction and paved shoulders, forming a ring road around the CBD.

Motorists who wish to access Musina may now do so from the N1 at the Nancefield and Musina interchanges, on the northern and southern sides of the town, respectively. By easing congestion between Musina and the Beitbridge border post, the ring road has transformed road transit between South Africa and neighbouring countries.

The new road cuts down on travel time and saves Musina and its residents from the constant onslaught of heavy-duty trucks. It also allows for fuel savings and contributes to improved mobility and the safe movement of goods, services and people in and around the town.

There is also scope for future expansion should traffic volumes increase.



“ Part of the road cuts through the old Musina copper mine and the old Musina landfill site. SANRAL had to cut 18 metres deep through the old copper mine site to make a way for the road. To prevent rocks and sand from being washed away, hessian fabric was used to cover the side of the road. We will sow seed grass, which will eventually cover the whole area. ”

Hennie Kotze,
SANRAL Project Engineer

Flagship project

A story of impact: Musina Ring Road

Situated in one of the busiest parts of the Limpopo province, the Musina Ring Road project not only enhanced infrastructure but also presented substantial opportunities for emerging businesses and the economic empowerment of surrounding communities through training and job creation.



“Up to 12% of the R700 million contract value was allocated to targeted enterprises, of which 10% was allocated to women-owned companies.”

Hennie Kotze,
SANRAL Project Engineer



3

Major bridges



2

Interchanges



6KM

Suppliers engaged of secondary road

Project scope



281

Jobs created for locals



R28 MILLION

Spent on goods and services from local companies



20

Local SMMEs employed



R51.9 MILLION

Spent on SMMEs



132

People trained



“We are making sure that our roads provide flexibility, easier mobility and community safety at all times. Community involvement and providing jobs for local people are also very important for us. This is empowerment at its best.”

Sindisiwe Chikunga,
Minister of Transport

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.

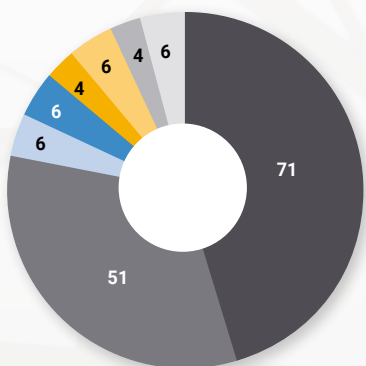
Bursaries in 2022



Scholarships in 2022

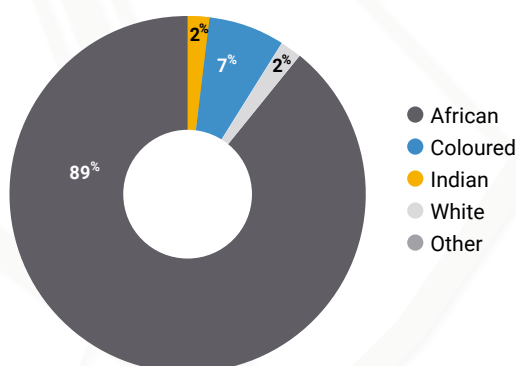


Number of bursary recipients in 2022 by population group



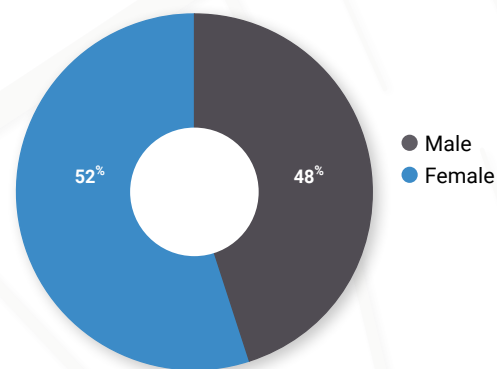
- African female
- Coloured female
- Indian female
- White female
- African male
- Coloured male
- Indian male
- White male

Percentage of scholarship recipients in 2022 by population group



- African
- Coloured
- Indian
- White
- Other

Percentage of graduate engineers by gender



- Male
- Female



Fulfilling ambitions: Mogomotsi Latakgomo's success story

A SANRAL bursary opened doors for Mogomotsi Latakgomo to embark on a journey towards a law degree at the University of Johannesburg.

With an impressive 80% academic average and ambitious dreams for his tertiary education, he discovered information about the SANRAL Bursaries Programme online and successfully completed the application process. The bursary not only covered his tuition, books and living expenses, but also allowed for a degree of financial independence, relieving his parents of some financial pressure.

Looking forward, Mogomotsi has a well-defined career path in mind. He aims to contribute to the corporate sector, specifically focusing on legal compliance and the regulatory environment.

"I have so much gratitude towards SANRAL and I don't have enough words to thank them. My wish is that more students get the chance to be as lucky as I am," he notes.

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.



These changes have been crucial to SANRAL's progress in upgrading one of the most dangerous stretches of road in South Africa, the R573 Moloto Road. Traversing 162 kilometres across Gauteng, Mpumalanga and Limpopo, this R4.5 billion project demands robust and ongoing stakeholder engagement.

Well-functioning PLCs and crucial partnerships with local municipalities are vital to managing projects on this scale. SANRAL ensures that all relevant stakeholders are represented on each of the PLCs, so that the interests of the various sectors within the project's jurisdiction are considered.

Engaging with communities has been key to the recruitment of local labour and the awarding of significant portions of contracts to small, medium and micro-sized enterprises (SMMEs). Initiatives such as 'Taking SANRAL to the People' and numerous information sessions have helped to showcase the opportunities available and provide necessary details about each phase of the project.

SANRAL is also setting aside significant resources to train prospective contractors from designated groups in order to transfer valuable skills for bidding and project participation. This investment not only addresses the current needs of the Moloto Road project but will also leave a lasting legacy in communities.

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WHO'S MAKING SURE LOCAL COMMUNITIES PROSPER?

Looking at the contracts worth billions of Rands awarded to 6 492 Black-owned SMMEs that have been empowered over the last 5 years: **We Showed Up.**

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