



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **Deputy Minister Tshwete believes the youth has the power to change the water sector**

01 October 2018

The Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation, Ms Pamela Tshwete, believes active youth involvement in the water and sanitation sector is the only remedy to address a myriad of challenges facing the sector.

Addressing learners during the Youth Water and Sanitation Award Ceremony on 28 September 2018 at Birchwood Hotel and Conference Centre in Boksburg, Tshwete said the importance of empowering the youth about the impact that water and sanitation have on our lives should not be underestimated.

The Department hosted this event as part of its 2020 vision programme. Participation starts at district level and progress to provincial level and finally take place in the national adjudication.

“We have gathered here this evening to recognise the outstanding performers and participants of the annual Department of Water and Sanitation’s education programme. We are here to recognise the potential role that our children play in the water sector,” said Deputy Minister Tshwete.

She added that the underlying aim of the Water and Sanitation Education Programme was to educate and empower learners and educators on the value of our water and our rivers, so that future generations will have access safe and clean water.

The Deputy Minister awarded 67 bursaries to students from across the country who displayed outstanding performance in the teaching and learning of water and sanitation issues.

Describing this year’s winners as cream of the crop, Minister Tshwete bestowed the awards to learners and educators in various action projects of the department such as Baswa le Meetse (BLM), Aqua Enduro, South African Youth Water Prize, Intervention projects and Public Speaking.

Furthermore, the prize monies and trophies were given to the intervention projects and BLM winners.

The programme encourages participants to learn from each other and to use the knowledge acquired to close the skills gap when they go back to their respective provinces.

The expected outcome of this programme is behavioural change with regard to water use which should manifest in the form of increased water saving and reduced water leaks in schools and communities.

“Even on this day of the awards, the key message is that we depend on you to teach your peers, parents and the broader society on the importance of using water sparingly,” added the Deputy Minister.



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She emphasised that being water conscious did not stop after taking part in the programme. She urged the learners to continue influencing the peers back at their schools and the communities in which they live.

“A society that is educated about natural resources can begin to build a future that sustains a better quality life, free from devastating effects of poverty and inequality,” she concluded.

**Lucky Makgarengi**