



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **Lerato is grateful to the department for shaping her future**

24 January 2019

A Department of Water and Sanitation bursary to study at university for 21-year old Lerato Sinah Moloi changed her life completely at a time when she had lost any hope ever studying at tertiary three years ago.

The soft-spoken girl from Qwaqwa in the Free State, is grateful to the department for the bursary offer and ceased it with both hands

She said: "This bursary has reminded me that in life hard work is recognised, it might not be immediately, but somewhere there is a good organisation that will reward you.

"It means a great deal to me", she said.

Her fortunes started at Beacon Secondary School in rural Lusaka Village where she matriculated in 2015, Moloi said she began dreaming of attending university, but finances had always been an obstacle.

"When I was in grade 11, my English teacher told us about the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) water safety poster competition. She told us that one of the prizes to be won in the competition it's a bursary."

"Then I decided to enter the competition because I knew I wanted to study after matric, but my mom would not be able to pay university fees" she added.

Months later Lerato was shortlisted as one of the students who would present their water safety posters and won a second position in Baswa Le Meetse competition.



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At the competition in Johannesburg, she couldn't believe her own ears when her name was announced as one of the top two winners. Her dreams started falling into place and a year later she was a university student

The bursary was a huge relief to her family as her mother, who transported school children as a living, would not have afforded her school fees. She is currently doing Mechanical Engineering at the University of Cape Town and she is doing her final year, this year 2019.

Lerato says the department assisted her to chart her future without stressing and has offered her the material and moral support.

"I want to say thank you to bursary coordinators. Please continue to assist other students who are goal-driven and want to further their studies but do not have means to do so" she said.

An investment in knowledge is the best. "I would love to say thank you to the Department of Water and Sanitation for all they have done for me and many other DWS bursary holders", she concluded.

**Khulekani Ngcobo**