



INTERNET ARTICLE

Young Water Professionals (YWP) programme focus on empowerment of the youth in the Public Sector

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The Young Water Professionals (YWP) programme recently hosted a workshop themed “**Changing the narrative: The unrecognised power of young professionals in the public sector**” at the Department of Water and Sanitation Head Offices in Pretoria.

The workshop aimed to empower and provide opportunities for career development to young professionals in the water sector. Participants during the workshop also discussed the role young professionals should play to bring about positive change in the sector.

Speaking during the workshop, Gaborekwe Tiro, a Deputy Director of Social and Economic Development at DWS encouraged young professionals to collaborate with the department in order to improve and enhance service delivery, especially in rural communities.

The workshop was attended by young graduates and students in the water, engineering and science fields, who were eager to showcase and communicate their innovative ways that could assist advance the sector.

Sivuyile Pezulu said it was important for older and experienced engineers to share their wealth of knowledge with young and upcoming scientists, in order to have integrated plans to bring about positive solutions to challenges the sector continues to face.

“As young professionals, we must ensure we engage with experienced experts in the sector and see how we can incorporate what they know and our contemporary innovations to help improve the sector,” said Pezulu.

The YWP programme seeks to remove barriers that impede youth within the public sector management structure.

Speaking more on the YWP programme’s primary objectives, Niel Louw said: “We provide opportunities for young professionals to develop their careers. We also conduct workshops, technical events and online initiatives. Participants are provided with a platform to present their work in a peer to peer learning environment in conferences and forums. This is done in order to mould them as the future workforce in the water sector.”

Thabang Molai

