



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Team Gauteng earns bragging rights at the Baswa le Meetse Competition

13 July 2017

The Gauteng province cemented itself as the driving force behind the water resource management and the promotion of health, sanitation and hygiene after sweeping four coveted awards at the Department of Water and Sanitation's National Baswa le Meetse Competition.

From the 11-12 July 2017, the Benoni Lakes Conference Centre in Ekurhuleni was the battle ground on which schools from across the country went head-to-head to impress adjudicators in the various art forms. This was all done in the name of getting the Youth to become actively involved in protecting water resources and advancing the cause of sanitation and hygiene.

Out of the five categories under which the schools contested, Gauteng teams made a clean sweep by taking position one on both poetry and music and claiming the second spot on praise poetry.

The other categories on which the various teams vied for the top spot were poster, poetry and drama.

Through the weight of persuasive arguments, learners from Thuto Lesedi Primary School in Vosloorus also snatched the sought after position one in Public Speaking towering above their fellow competitors. Gauteng also snatched the sought-after position one in debate, towering above its fellow competitors. The topics around which the Public Speaking took place centred around the role of the National Development Plan (NDP), the 2020 Vision and the 2030 goals in the context of the Centenary of struggle stalwart Oliver Reginald Tambo.

Given the dire water conditions in which South Africa finds itself which is compounded by the drought crises, the Department's Minister started the Baswa le Meetse Competition to draw the Youth's attention to issues of water and sanitation.

The competition thus brings the Youth from across the country to assist in formulating messages that would assist in addressing the challenge of water scarcity while encouraging them to be innovative in their solutions.

The DWS's Deputy Minister, Pamela Tshwete, expressed her admiration for the Youth that had made it to the national competition, saying although there had to be winners all of the participants were winners.

Cautioning against the infrastructure destruction during service delivery protests, Tshwete said this was an unacceptable behaviour which was fast taking root in communities. She urged the participants to constructively engage to resolve issues.



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Gauteng provincial coordinator, Shoky Malepe, praised her team Gauteng for their sterling performance, saying they had proved that they prepared to be actively involved in solving issues that posed a challenge to the country.

Malepe said Gauteng's win in the different categories showed that there were many means of achieving a goal and that her team had to do their best to make sure that they conveyed relevant messages.

"The challenges of water and sanitation in country requires that we do all we can to involve every sector of our society to make sure that we rise above it. Our Youth in this regard are a key sector that we cannot afford to leave behind. We need their innovative and fresh ideas to extricate ourselves from whatever realities we face at a given moment," said the optimistic Malepe.

Hosia Sithole