



INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS Free State bid farewell to Cubans

31 May 2018

The departure of two Columbian engineers, Oneida Columbie Moya and Amaury Perez, who were working in the department's Free State Provincial Office be missed and their absence will create a void.

Speaking at their farewell this week, Ntombenhle Hlengwa, Deputy Director: Water Service Planning, said regardless of the language barrier, it was easy to communicate with them because they were so patient and kind, a rare trait these days .

“All the colleagues in Infrastructure Development Section relate how Oneida is always smiling and friendly. The only time I saw a change in her behaviour, understandably so, was when she got the call that her father was sick and she had to make arrangements to go back to Colombia”, said Hlengwa.

She said Colombians were generally modest and humble This was based on the fact that when the two undertook officialtrips they would buy food that they would be able to eat for lunch and supper .

Instead of buying a burger that will only feed them for lunch they would rather buy bread and polony slices for instance so that they can eat the same meal at a later stage and save money even though they know they can claim it back”, Hlengwa said.

Each time they went home the two always brought gifts with them for their colleagues.

I think Oneida and Amaury are very brave to venture into another country where a different language is used, culture and beliefs are different and leave their families behind to plough their trade and share information abroad, that is commendable”, said Hlengwa.

“I enjoyed being in the Free State, the people here are very friendly and I say this because I have travelled all the other provinces,” said Amaury. He did not find it difficult to communicate with the locals and artisans when he visited a project. “I truly enjoyed my time here and feel that I got to transfer skills to people who are working at the treatment plants”, Amaury said.

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