



INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS's partnership with Izakhiwo Imfundo Bursary Trust continues to bear fruits

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The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) continues to make strides towards the promotion of scarce skills in the Water and Sanitation sector through its partnership with Izakhiwo Imfundo Bursary Trust. This public-private partnership has offered over 80 students since its inception in 2016.

This year, twenty five (25) students have enrolled for the one-year experiential learning to acquire the tools of trade for the working environment.

The experiential learning forms part of the students' studying programme and will culminate in them completing their tertiary qualifications at their respective learning institutions.

This partnership between DWS and Izakhiwo Imfundo Bursary Trust entails a five year agreement between the department and the Trust, which is aimed at offering engineering and construction students experiential learning by awarding bursaries and providing training resources and facilities.

Addressing students at an event held recently at Roodeplaat Training Centre, Izakhiwo Imfundo Bursary Trust Chairperson, Dr Namane Magau urged the students to take this opportunity seriously and work very hard.

She said the water sector is heavily challenged with shortages of construction and engineering professionals and is in need of young minds to come to its rescue.

She also indicated that their decision to partner with DWS was motivated by the amazing work that DWS is doing in developing skills and talents through its Learning Academy.

"This collaboration assists to ensure that entrance to the industry does not only come with the right qualifications, but ensures that students are prepared through experiential learning," said Dr Magau.

The programme also addresses the disconnect that exists between the skills needed by the sector and those that are coming out from the higher education.

Katlego Mashishi a third-year Civil Engineering student from Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) described the programme as special in that they will be trained by the specialist in the field.



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“This is a rare opportunity that will give me a platform to understand the industry better and also sharpen what I have learnt at the institutions of higher learning,” he said.

Another student from the Walter Sisulu University (WSU), Mosawenkosi Mtshali, said she was looking forward to getting exposure into the real world of Civil Engineering.

“My expectations from the programme is to get as much knowledge, training and advices as possible from the professionals to enable me to successfully enter the working environment,” said Mtshali.

Lucky Makgarengi