



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Government commits to improve the lives of citizens

23 May 2018

Government, through the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), has committed to improve the lives and living conditions of the citizens of the country.

Speaking during her Budget Vote speech for 2018, Deputy Minister of DWS, Ms Pam Tshwete stressed that government owe South Africans the assurance that “we will continue to change the lives of our people through service delivery, in this instance provision of Water and Sanitation to all our people, leaving no one behind.”

Deputy Minister Tshwete pointed out that the figures tabled here today support the plans that the Minister, Gugile Nkwinti, spoke to, making the budget an enabler to achieve the vision of the Department through expansion of services to the previously disadvantaged. This will be done in support of socio-economic programmes and job creation while exercising financial prudence.

She added: “Honourable Chairperson, allow me to take you back to the establishment of the Department of Water and Sanitation, as proclaimed in 2014, which required a long term plan that will provide an integrated model to roll-out the Water and Sanitation services. The response to this was the implementation of the National Water and Sanitation Master Plan.

I am therefore glad to report the great progress achieved on this front, which Minister Nkwinti signed off to serve at Cabinet tomorrow, on 23 May 2018. We hope for your support in this regard. It is our belief that this Master-Plan will contribute to improved service delivery in line with the Constitution, the National Development Plan and the achievement of Agenda 2030 of the Sustainable Development Goals,” the DM said.

She further noted that DWS has made progress in advancing the role of women in the sector through the Mentorship Programme, which successfully meets the needs of the beneficiaries through a strict tailored programme that transfers experience, knowledge, skills on time and required standards. This programme will continue to assist the department to achieve the socio-economic transformation that we aspire for.



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“2018 will be no different in terms of the awarding of the Department of Water and Sanitation bursaries. These bursaries are afforded to internal deserving employees and tertiary students who pursue studies in the fields of Water and Sanitation. Further this bursary programme will continue to skill and retain required capacity in the key strategic programmes and different streams, ensuring excellence and experience as part of the career pathing strategy of the department,” the DM noted.

The learning academy in the department has an intake of 40 learners in 22 universities across the country. “We also have eight (8) interns and 44 graduate trainees who are mentored by technical managers within the department. We have now recruited 10 000 learners for training on combating water leaks in communities, today I would want to report that the first phase of learners will be completing their training in September in the current financial year, while we are continuing with second phase of the programme,” added the DM

DM Tshwete noted that Minister Nkwinti gave a new vision on how the department will continue into the third phase, working with municipalities as part of the broader built, operate, train and transfer programme within the department’s infrastructure branch.

She concluded that she was proud to announce that five of our learners who completed their artisan training are now employed; four (4) at ERWAT in Benoni and one (1) female plumber is employed as a facilitator at the Olifantsfontein Artisan Academy. “I therefore call upon our municipalities and government departments targeted as beneficiaries of this project to start preparing to absorb these artisans and address their water loss challenges. I would also like to acknowledge work done with the Public-Private sector partners. The Department appreciates the continued positive response of our institution in this regard,” the DM added.

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