



INTERNET ARTICLE

Jermaine heaps praises on DWS for opening doors for him

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Jermaine Nathanael has nothing but praises on the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) for opening the doors for him to reach greater heights in his pursuit for a better life for him and his family.

When all seemed so gloomy when he was doing his second year at the University of KwaZulu-Natal with his parents struggling to keep up with hefty tuition fees, then came DWS, to rescue what was becoming a toll order, by offering him a bursary to study further.

The Pietermaritzburg-born hydrologist, said that he was about to give up and was oblivious of other options he had. It was not until his lecturer Professor Smithers advised him to apply for a bursary at Department of Water and Sanitation, when he finally realised that only the sky is the limit.

The Department covered for his tuition fees until he finished his studies. In 2016, he enrolled as a hydrology trainee-student with DWS. Since then he has never looked back and he enjoys his work and the experience that he got through his training.

Jermaine believes that education and skills development are the most powerful weapons that the youth of today need to boost the country's economy.

He says when things seemed impossible for him, he found inspiration in the generation of 1976 who never succumbed to oppression and stood firm in their demand for a better education.

The manner in which the department dealt with his application and how professional the officials who assisted him were, debunked the myth that government officials are lazy and only assist their families and friends.

“Through the efforts of officials that assisted me and this initiative by the department, my life and that of my family has been changed for better and forever. Without the department, I do not think I would have completed my Masters and I am eternally grateful for this”, he said enthusiastically.

Jermaine added that, the cherry on top for him was being offered an opportunity to enhance his skills within the department upon completion of his studies.



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“Every young person would tell you that, finding employment after graduation is one of the major challenges in the country in recent times. The department did not just pay for my studies but, it has ensured that I get the practical work experience by roping me in to work in the department for three years”, he said gratefully.

The young lad from the small area called Woodlands has encouraged the youth to use the opportunities available at their disposals to make something meaningful about their lives. He said this would be a befitting honour to the generation of 1976 who wanted nothing but a better life for all.

Khulekani Ngcobo