



INTERNET ARTICLE

Learners battled it out for top honours at the school water conservation event

26 March 2018

A group of 120 learners from various schools in the City of Ekurhuleni Municipality participated in the school water conservation event which was held at Birchwood Hotel & OR Tambo Conference Centre recently.

The event formed part of the annual National Water Week celebration led by the Department of Water and Sanitation's (DWS's) Gauteng Provincial in partnership with the Birchwood Hotel & OR Tambo Conference Centre and other stakeholders including Department of Education, City of Ekurhuleni and Delta Enviro and Waste Plan.

The learners were given topics to research and create models on how Nature Based Solutions (NBS) could be used to address the current water challenges in the country. On the day of the event the learners presented their findings before a panel of judges.

In what was the battle of the minds, the learners discussed and advised on various ways in which NBS can help to reduce the water challenges in the country.

Some of the notable and cost effective solutions that came out of the presentations included rain water harvesting, planting of trees to replenish forests, reconnecting rivers to floodplains and restoring wetlands.

Addressing the learners at the event, DWS's MS Mhlabaze Malepe reiterated the importance of freshwater and the need for sustainable management of this precious resource.

She said: "Events like these creates an opportunity for all of us to learn more about water related issues and how everyone can play a part in the management of this scare resource."

Speaking on behalf of the Department of Education, Ms Vanessa Boikhotso sent a message of gratitude to the organisers saying the event was a good platform that give practical exposure to learners about environmental issues.

"This educational awareness event is in line with the school curriculum. The initiative will enhance learners' knowledge of water conservation, sanitation, ecology and waste management," said Ms Boikhotso.

She also encouraged learners to take water resource management seriously by applying all the lessons learnt at their homes and schools.

Patricia Sethebe from the City of Ekurhuleni congratulated all the learners who took part in this year's event and thanked them for their hard work and efforts in putting together their presentations.

"Even though there is going to be a few winners at the end of the day, in my view you are all winners," said Ms Sethebe.



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

The top two schools in the High School's Category were Tiisetso High School and Dr J. Jurgens High School. Walking away with the coveted prizes in the Primary Schools Category was the Pine Groove Primary School which took first place, while Tlamatlama Primary School from Tembisa took the second place.

All four schools were awarded gardening tools sponsored by Delta Enviro and Waste Plan.

Lucky Makgarengi