



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **DWS bursary opened doors for Tshwarelo Malele**

11 February 2019

Getting a place at a tertiary institution in South Africa is one of the biggest challenges to most matriculants aspiring to further their studies. In most cases this is due to lack of funding, results that are not satisfactory or a lack of career guidance.

Fortunately this was not the case with Tshwarelo Malele, a Graduate Trainee based in the Western Cape Regional office. Tshwarelo was very clear of what she wanted to study after her Matric.

In 2011, Malele took part in the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) National Public Speaking Competition and her presentation was on the Effects of Climate Change on Water Resources. This was after her teacher encouraged her to take part in the competition. Following her love and passion for the environment, Tshwarelo decided to try her luck; little did she know that this was the beginning of her long journey with DWS.

This energetic Mpumalanga born believes that everyone should take environmental issues very seriously.

“Not everyone takes environmental issues as seriously as we do, so it’s a bit challenging working with people who do not value environmental resources as much as we do because this means that they would be less co-operative in working with us as regulators. Geography has always been my favourite subject at school hence I decided to further my studies in the field”, says Malele.

Her presentation opened doors for her as she scooped a bursary to study Bsc Environmental & Geographical Science and Atmospheric Science at the University of Cape Town.

Tshwarelo’s role is to protect the most precious resource on earth; water.

“She added that, the bursary she received from DWS bursary opened doors for her to pursue her undergraduate studies without any financial stress, and that opportunity placed her in a job space that she thoroughly enjoys.

“The department services the entire province, so my job is very demanding. I get to travel a lot, meet new people, and see new places. It also helps expand my network as I work with everyone from small farmers to big mining companies”, she added.

Malele thinks that the industry still needs more females. “I don’t think we have enough females. The field of science in its vastness is still largely male dominated. We live in a patriarchal society so much of the work place is still like that. Hopefully we will reach that point where female scientists are the leaders of science”.

Her role in the department includes Compliance Monitoring. She conducts compliance inspections and audits for water use licences and other authorisations with different water users from the agricultural to mining sector. This is done in order to ascertain their compliance against provisions of the National Water Act.

**Phetho Ntaba**