

MEDIA RELEASE



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Department of Water Affairs and Forestry - Chief Directorate: Communication
Services

Minister announces the creation of a national award for women in water

Date: 8 August 2001

Today Minister Kasrils, Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry, announced the establishment of a national annual award for women in water. This award has been jointly established by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry and the Water Research Commission, and will recognise of the important contribution of women in the management of our scarce water resources, from community level to the highest levels. The award will be made for the first time on National Women's Day, 2002. Details of the award will be announced early in 2002.

The Minister is hopeful that the award will contribute to enhancing the profile of women in the water sector, and that it will encourage more women to become involved in the water sector. He is also hopeful that a number of other institutions will support this innovative award.

The potential of women in the water sector has been well demonstrated by Lorainmarie Le Grange, the winner of the 2001 South African Junior Water Prize. Le Grange, a 16 year old learner at Voortrekker High School in Bethlehem in the Free State won this prestigious prize for her study of artificial high water flow and resultant silt loads in the As river.

This award is the South African arm of the annual Stockholm Junior Water Prize, and Le Grange will be leaving South Africa on National Women's Day to attend the finals of this competition in Stockholm. Other participating countries include Argentina, Australia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Britain, Italy, Latvia, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Thailand and the USA. The Minister stated today that he was delighted to see the capacity of the youth as shown in this competition, and he hoped that Le Grange would be an example to other female learners to put their energy into the sciences, engineering and natural resource management.

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