



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Baswa le Meetse National Competitions under way in Boksburg

25 June 2018

Enthusiastic learners from nine provinces of the country have gathered at Birchwood Hotel in Boksburg to set the scene alight for the Baswa le Meetse National competitions which kicked off today, 25 June 2018.

Baswa le Meetsi, an initiative of the Department of Water and Sanitation, is part of the 2020 Vision for Water Education Programme which is aimed at galvanising Primary School learners to actively participate in water conservation efforts.

Delivering the keynote address on the first day of event, Deputy Minister Pamela Tshwete said the department is doing all it can to stimulate young people's minds and enticing them to have an interest in the water sector. She said, the water sector needs all hands on the deck in coming up with innovative ways to face the current challenges and young people as future leaders need to be roped in now.

As the country celebrates former President Nelson Mandela and the struggle stalwart Mama Albertina Sisulu centenaries, Deputy Minister urged the learners to follow their example and be leaders who make a difference in their communities.

"Our department will do everything it can to invest in young people and open the doors of learning for them by offering bursaries to the deserving learners who want to pursue careers in the water sector", she said.

Deputy Minister Tshwete congratulated the learners for making this far in the competition and said that should be a motivation enough for them to win the first prize.

The learners will compete in drama, music, poetry, praise poetry and in the creation of posters that convey water saving messages. This competition, which started in 2003, begins at district level where primary schools battle it out to reach provincials which then it culminate to this national competition.

The ultimate winners in all five categories receive an array of prizes from DWS in collaboration with Cobra Taps – a strategic partner of the department.



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The Baswa le Meetse programme seeks to achieve water literacy in the country through a comprehensive formal and informal public education, to affect positive attitude and behavioral change to all South Africans. The programme also encourages learners early in their lives to consider a career in water, thereby reducing the scarce skills shortage of scientists and engineers within the water sector.

The Department of Water and Sanitation, working with various stakeholders, will continue its efforts to encourage all sectors of the society to come up with innovative initiatives that will assist the water sector to meet the growing demands of water.

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