



MEDIA STATEMENT

Deputy Minister Pamela Tshwete launches a Water Scientific Services Laboratory set to benefit community in Brits

24 January 2019

Water and Sanitation Deputy Minister Pamela Tshwete launched the state of the art Magalies Water Services Laboratory in Brits, North West on Thursday 22 January 2019.

The laboratory is set to provide services ranging from water quality testing and sampling, research and monitoring of drinking water supplies, process monitoring of water and wastewater works and environmental monitoring of rivers and dams.

Addressing more than 300 high school pupils and scores of community members from the Madibeng Local Municipality, Deputy Minister Tshwete said the work of the laboratory will serve residents in the municipality by enhancing the supply of quality drinking water.

“This necessary development comes at a time when the country is faced with challenges not just of water scarcity, but of good quality water. I implore you to guard this infrastructure and ensure that it is kept in the pristine condition that will be beneficial to all,” she said.

Deputy Minister Tshwete also emphasized that the varied and extensive services to be sourced from the laboratory will assist municipalities with quicker responses to outcomes of the Blue and Green Drop Reports as they unfold.

In addition, the laboratory will also ensure that there is closer co-operation with key stakeholders, clients, municipalities, mines, industries and agriculture.

Deputy Minister Tshwete expressed that she was particularly impressed with Magalies Water’s Scientific Services Department as it has already assisted clients including local municipalities, with the implementation of a range of water quality monitoring programmes for potable water, wastewater, river water, dams and sludge.

She also encouraged the youth to look into opportunities in the water and sanitation sector, assuring that the Department of Water and Sanitation will provide the necessary support.





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“The Department of Water and Sanitation as the sector leader is keen in developing capacity for the benefit of South Africa. The department does this through its Learning Academy which drives the sector capacity building,” said Deputy Minister Tshwete.

Part of the Learning Academy Programme speaks to the development of Graduate Trainees in the department in different disciplines relevant to the water and sanitation sector; In-Service Training in partnership with Group 5; as well as the availability of full bursaries to follow different disciplines at numerous universities in the country.

The department also offers comprehensive bursaries for full qualifications on average of R75 000 per student per annum.

Advocate Mosotho Petlane, Magalies Water Board Chairperson assured the deputy minister that the water entity, through its outreach programme will expose learners about the career opportunities in the water, sanitation and scientific fields. This will be done through school visits to the laboratory.

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Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation and Magalies Water

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