



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
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INTERNET ARTICLE

Deputy Minister Tshwete proud of SAYWP finalists

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The Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation, Ms Pamela Tshwete, said plugging the skills shortage in the water and sanitation sector would be the only remedy to address a myriad of challenges facing the sector.

Welcoming learners to the annual national South African Youth Water Prize (SAYWP) Competition on 01 June 2017 at Manhattan Hotel in Pretoria, Tshwete said the water and sanitation sector was faced with a lot of challenges that varies from poor sanitation infrastructure and access to clean water.

She said the department was working tirelessly in closing the gap through the competition.

The SAYWP Competition encourages and empowers the youth to participate actively in integrated and community based water resource management. Through this completion learners are motivated to pursue water and sanitation management careers in a bid to close the shortage of skills in the sector.

The competition started in provinces and culminated into the national event, which will see learners competing for top honours.

Tshwete told educators and officials of how proud she felt about their participation in the competition, applauding the learners for reaching the national competition.

“You are here today because you are all winners. We are happy to be associated with you and we recognise all your efforts,” said Deputy Minister.

She also thanked the learners for their commitment to serve in the water sector, which she said bore the brunt of challenges such as effects of climate change, water scarcity, environmental pollution, sanitation infrastructure and lack of technical expertise.

“These challenges affect the quality of water, the ability to store large quantity of water and the management of water and sanitation facilities,” added Deputy Minister.

Tshwete said the SAYWP Competition was introduced as a result of challenges that the water and sanitation sector was facing, reiterating she hoped the youth will bring solutions to these challenges.

She said: “The learners as the future engineers and scientists their bigger prize should be achieving access to water and proper sanitation for all in South Africa.”

Lucky Makgarengi