



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS makes a difference through its bursaries

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June 16 each year marks the centre of Youth Month in South Africa. It is in this month where South Africa pays tribute to the school pupils who lost their lives during the 16 June 1976 uprising in Soweto.

The young people were killed when they protested against the attempt to impose Afrikaans as a medium of instruction in secondary schools. This was during the apartheid regime, which aimed at excluding and violating the youth's fundamental right to quality education in a language that was accessible to them.

Although the youth of today have come to enjoy the fruits of the struggles that engulfed the youth of 1976 as well as their courageous spirits, there are other challenges that the youth led under the democratic movement are facing.

In taking note of these challenges, government this year, is celebrating Youth Month under the theme: **"The Year of Oliver Tambo: Advancing Youth Economic Empowerment."**

As part of the month's activities, the Department of Water and Sanitation is profiling the efforts the Department has made in advancing economic empowerment for the youth.

Speaking to 26-year-old Production Scientist, Jeremy Naidoo he said, "I am grateful to the Department for sourcing talent in the water and sanitation sector and giving opportunities to the youth through bursaries and empowering young South Africans to become future leaders in government".

The bursary is one of the many bursaries offered to qualifying candidates interested in the water sector through the Departments Learning Academy. The academy is a response to specific scarce and technical skill-related issues that are affecting both the Department and the National Water Sector.

The immediate objectives of the academy are to forecast a skills shortage within DWS that will arise from the retirement of senior engineering and technical management personnel.

Jeremy, who is originally from Pietermaritzburg, was awarded the DWS Bursary in 2013 during his final year of study at the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

He joined DWS in 2014 as a graduate trainee and through the assistance of DWS acquired his professional license with South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP) in less than 3 years having been exposed to a number of large-scale national projects.



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Explaining his day to day duties Jeremy said, "I provide technical expertise to DWS in the field of flood studies and I am responsible for conducting flood frequency analyses for large dams in South Africa, as well as the determination of flood lines.

With the recent figures released by the Statistics South Africa (Stat SA), which shows that the youth unemployment rate has increased by 1.6% to 38.6% in the first quarter of this year, one bursary and one job to one youth, makes all the difference.

Mbalenhle Dlamini