



INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS's Aqua Enduro encourages learners to study careers in the Water Sector

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The Department of Water and Sanitation's (DWS's) Aqua Enduro Programme is expanding its reach to young people who are keen on pursuing their dream careers in the water and sanitation sector.

The flagship programme continues to breathe life into the department's initiative to draw learners who are currently doing mathematics and physical science to become scientists and engineers. The department's intention is to later absorb the learners into the department to offset the dwindling skills base in the sector.

The Gauteng Provincial Competition, which recently took place at Roodeplaats Training Centre, was therefore a build-up to the national competition.

The national competition will see 20 young people from across the length and breadth of the country facing-off for top honours from 3 - 8 December 2017 in Nelspruit, Mpumalanga.

Gauteng will be represented by six learners who had participated in the provincial competition where 33 learners were adjudicated.

The national winners will be awarded scholarships to study careers of their choice in Science or Engineering fields in the water sector.

The Gauteng top three learners were Mbali Mazoko from Sandtonview Secondary, Lebogang Kgomo from J.B Matabane Secondary and Refilwe Sigale from Morris Issacson High.

They will be joined by Tyler Reese Vermeulen and Thabo Tsematse from Alberton High as well as Thando Gumbi from Bhukulani Secondary.

Gauteng Provincial Coordinator of the programme, Ms Mhlabaze Malepe, said the competition has helped a lot of young minds to further their studies and secure formal employment afterwards. She said most of these learners would not have afforded the tuition fees.

Ms Malepe said in this year's competition most of the schools that took part had never participated in the competition in the previous years.

"Our approach for this year was different to the previous years; we focused on the schools that were never exposed to the competition", said Malepe.

Malepe also applauded the educators for their excellent job in assisting the learners to prepare for the competition especially with research and PowerPoint presentation.

"To the learners the sky is the limit. It means never let anyone tell you that you can't make it in life. Hard work, determination and perseverance bear positive rewards at the end," added Malepe.



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A learner from Morris Isaacson High, Refilwe Sigale, could not hide her jubilation after finding out that she has made it to the national competition.

She advised her peers to never let their backgrounds define and determine their future.

“Let us go and show the nation what Gauteng is capable of”, Sigale who looked forward to the showdown in December.

Lucky Makgarengi