



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Deputy Minister Tshwete honours learners for their efforts in the water sector

01 October 2018

Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation, Ms Pamela Tshwete, honoured learners from schools across the country with awards during a prestigious awards ceremony held on Friday, 28 September 2018 at Birchwood Hotel in Boksburg, Gauteng.

The awards were for learners who participated in competitions such as Baswa le Meetsi, Aqua Enduro, South African Youth Water Prize, Intervention Project and Public Speaking early this year.

These competitions are part of the 2020 Vision for Water and Sanitation Programme that is aimed to encourage schools to implement water projects aimed at solving water and sanitation challenges at both school and community level. This is to ensure that educators and learners are exposed to water and sanitation education and to promote behavioural change on water use and the use of toilet facilities, amongst others.

Joining Deputy Minister Tshwete was her counter-parts from Higher Education and Training, and Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Buti Manamela and Andries Nel respectively; and Gauteng MEC for Education, Mr Panyaza Lesufi who all lauded the Department's youth programme promoting water and sanitation education in schools.

"Deputy Minister, as the Gauteng Department of Education, we are all behind you. Issues of water and sanitation should not only fall on government's shoulders. We need the youth to actually take the lead, through innovation and engaging in programmes such as these," said MEC Lesufi.

Educators and learners who have competed in the various action projects of the department, walked away with bursaries, prize monies, trophies and certificates of excellence from the Deputy Minister at the ceremony.

One 14-year-old science innovator Kwazi Zwezwe from Ixopo High School in KwaZulu-Natal, scooped first position in the SA Youth Water Prize Award (SAYWP) after representing South Africa at the Stockholm Junior Water Prize in Sweden two months ago.

"I will forever be grateful for the opportunity presented by the department. Not only has it broadened my mind to become more innovative, it provided a platform for me to engage with other global innovators," said an excited Zwezwe.

As part of his winnings, Zwezwe walked away with a bursary, prize money worth R9000, and a laptop.

Visibly impressed, Deputy Minister Tshwete encouraged both educators and learners to "hold hands and continue working together. South Africa needs all of us to make it better. Not only are we doing it for us, we are also doing it for the future generation."

Lebogang Maseko and Khulekani Ngcobo