



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **DWS entices learners into water and sanitation careers**

06 August 2018

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) is continuing in its endeavor to encourage learners to consider and pursue careers in the water and sanitation sector, especially the scarce skills to close the skills gap. As part of its continuous awareness, the Department encouraged learners in the Gert Sibande District of the Mpumalanga Province to consider the water sector as part of the National Science Week in Mkhondo, from 30 July to 03 August 2018.

Jan Mabena, Thami Mndawe and Nontokozo Hleza from DWS engaged the learners through educative and informative presentations on the water and sanitation business process. The sessions were so informative and gave learners an understanding of the operations of the Department, including careers in the sector. It was a hectic week for the team as they interacted with about 5000 learners and educators during the week.

Learners were so excited to learn about so many career opportunities in the water and sanitation sector. "I really never cared that much for water as I thought I get water from my tap and that water comes from the river and rain. Now I understand that there are so many processes involved in bringing clean and healthy water to my tap. The water and sanitation business process chart really opened my mind in the water and sanitation business processes. I am going to do Mechanical Engineering to ensure that plants are always functioning optimally to ensure access to clean water and prevent the pollution of our water resources by ensuring that waste water is treated according to required standards", said Phumulani Dlamini from Incubeko Secondary School in Mkhondo.

The annual National Science Week event at the Mondi Science Centre is an important platform for the youth of the Gert Sibande District, especially those from the rural schools to gain valuable information and exposure in the different science related careers to give them the variety to choose the careers that are more suitable for them.



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This annual event also gives DWS the opportunity to engage learners and encourage them to be water ambassadors and participate in the Department's schools programme to uplift the socio-economic status of communities.

**Themba Khoza**