



INTERNET ARTICLE

Developing the youth for sustainable water resource management and water security

10 May 2023

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Mpumalanga Provincial Operations participated in the Mondi Science, Career Guidance and FET Skills Centre career exhibition and awareness week that took place from 02 to 05 May 2023 in Mkhondo.

The career exhibition week provides learners and the out of school youth with exposure to different careers and other important information that helps them in their future careers and life in general.

Mr Themba Khoza and Ms. Nontokozo Hleza from DWS Mpumalanga engaged learners about careers in the water sector and also created water ambassadors to spread the message of water conservation and resource protection in their communities. This stimulated the interest of the youth and they engaged more and asked probing questions which showed their understanding of the presentation.

Khoza reminded the learners, out of school youth, and educators that South Africa is a water scarce country so they must by all means use water wisely and sparingly. He explained the importance of saving water for water security as water has no substitute, and he further shared different ways that can be put into practice to save water.

“We all need water to live. Without water, we cannot survive. This is how important water is in our lives. South Africa is a water scarce country and one of the 30 driest countries in the world, and this make it important that we always use the available water in a wise and sparing manner. We cannot afford to waste water because every drop counts in our water scarce country as water has no substitute”, he said.

Ms Nontokozo Hleza took the audience through the water and sanitation business and highlighted the critical skills required in the sector. She encouraged learners to take make and science to be able to undertake studies in technical studies to close the skills gap in the water sector. She further encouraged the youth to take care of the water resources and prevent their pollution.

Mr Khoza further encouraged the youth to protect water and sanitation infrastructure from vandalism in their community as vandalism has a negative impact on reliable water supply and water security for the current and future generations.

SOUTH AFRICA IS A WATER SCARCE COUNTRY





water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



The learners were very excited about the information they received from the department's stall and stated that the presentations really opened their minds and widened their scope in relation to careers they can consider, especially in the water sector as they did not know that there are so many wonderful careers in the sector.

"This career exhibition has really assisted me to know exactly what I want to do and how to play a positive role in the development of my country. From the Department of Water and Sanitation, I have learnt that South Africa is a water scarce country, and we should not waste water as it is life and sanitation is dignity. I am going to teach more people about the importance of water conservation and taking care of the water resources as this is crucial for water security. I am also going to do my best to ensure that water is not wasted unnecessarily. Career wise, I would like to be a scientist", stated one of the learners, Ntethelelo Hlatshwayo from Methula High School.

Water saving tips and career information pamphlets were distributed amongst the learners and the youth promised to be water ambassadors and share the tips with their families and friends.

Themba Khoza

SOUTH AFRICA IS A WATER SCARCE COUNTRY



Department of Water and Sanitation South Africa



DWS RSA