



# INTERNET ARTICLE

## **Gauteng Baswa Le Meetse (BLM) held Ekurhuleni North District competition.**

17 May 2023

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in Gauteng hosted Baswa le Meetse (BLM) hosted Ekurhuleni North district competition at Tlamatlama primary school in Tembisa on Friday, 12 May 2023.

BLM is one of the DWS's educational programmes aiming to educate intermediate phase learners about the importance of water resource management, and hygienic hand-washing. It is done through art forms, which include music, drama, poetry, posters, and praise poetry.

The competition starts with capacity building and workshops for educators, then district level adjudications, to provincial and national finals.

GP DWS in collaboration with the Department of Education district has 15 Department of Education districts. Each district organizes for competition as a build up to BLM provincial level competition which will take place in July.

As a district, Ekurhuleni North will be represented at provincial level by Mayfield primary school in drama, Chief Luthuli in music, O.R Tambo in poetry, and Edulweni primary school in post poetry.

The provincial winners will have the opportunity to represent Gauteng province at the national competition in October.

Following the adjudicators' verdicts at the end of the Ekurhuleni North district BLM competition, Chief Luthuli took the top spot in the drama category, followed by Mayfield Primary on position 2. Mayfield Primary again took the top spot in the music category, with O. R. Tambo Primary second. O.R Tambo Primary received first place in praise-poetry, while Mooifontein Primary received second place and Bojelong Primary received third place.

Edulweni Primary won the poetry competition, defeating Peter Zongwane and Mooifontein Primary schools.

Primary schools that have achieved first positions in all categories will compete for bigger rewards on the big provincial stage of the competition.

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Gauteng DWS Water Sector Support Deputy Director, Thami Mndawe thanked everyone who attended the competition and congratulated the learners for their excellent performances.

“The adjudicators were ecstatic to witness the learners who came out to showcase their capabilities”, said Mndawe.

Furthermore, Mndawe stressed the importance of aligning activities with the department's theme, Water is life and Sanitation is dignity. He reiterated that health and hygiene messages were important to include, and this would add more spark at the national BLM competition.

Mr. Mndawe emphasised the importance of articulating to the audience rather than standing and talking.

“The adjudicators and spectators need to be able to understand the conveyed message easily with the help of our learners' ability to articulate their art of work. If not, there will be several factors affecting the results. A significant one is the inability for the audience to digest the message communicated because of language differences, Mndawe stated at the end of his remarks

Reshoketswe Malepe, Gauteng DWS coordinator, called on teachers to go beyond expectations in helping learners achieve stellar results so that they can be able to compete at the national level in BLM.

**Tshigofatso Mashile**

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