



INTERNET ARTICLE

Gauteng Baswa Le Meetse (BLM) held Tshwane North District competition

21 July 2023

On 21 July 2023, the Gauteng Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) continued its Baswa Le Meetse (BLM) District Competition at Khensani Primary School in Soshanguve, Tshwane North District.

BLM is one of the DWS's educational programmes aiming to educate intermediate phase learners about water resource management, and hygienic handwashing. It is done through art forms, including 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 organises competitions with 15 Districts of the Department of Education, which become a build up to BLM provincial level competition which will take place end of July.

Tshwane North will be represented at provincial level by Dithabaneng Primary School in drama and poetry, Khensani Primary School in music, Siyokhela Primary School in poster, and Makgoke Primary School in praise-poetry.

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

At the end of the Tshwane North district BLM competition, Dithabaneng Primary took the top spot in the drama category, followed by Entokozweni Primary on position 2 and Marokolong Primary on position 3. In the Poetry category, Dithabaneng Primary School again topped Motshegofadiwa Primary and Padisago Primary Schools.

Siyokhela Primary was awarded first place in poster category, while Khensani Primary received second place. Refihlile Primary received third place.

Makgoke Primary School won the praise poetry competition, defeating Motshegofadiwa Primary School.

First-place primary schools in each category will compete for the top prizes at the provincial level of the competition.

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

"Adjudicators were thrilled to see learners demonstrating their skills", said Mndawe.



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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 imperative to include, and this would add more value to the national BLM competition.

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

"Our learners need to be able to communicate their artwork effectively so that adjudicators and spectators can easily understand it. If not, several factors will affect the results. A significant one is the audience's inability to digest the message communicated because of language differences", Mndawe stated.

Senior Education Specialist in Gauteng Tshwane North District, Pat Kekana shared his thoughts, adding that he noticed most schools struggle with stage usage.

"How to make use of the stage appears to be a challenge for most schools. They take time to project. They cannot differentiate between entrance and exit. These are key factors that boost the child's confidence", said the Senior Education Specialist.

Reshoketswe Malepe, Gauteng DWS coordinator, encouraged teachers to go beyond expectations to help learners achieve stellar results. So, they can compete both on a provincial and national level in BLM.

In addition, she stressed the importance of following the guidelines and preparing thoroughly.

Tshigofatso Mashile

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