



INTERNET ARTICLE

Learners engaged on career options and water conservation

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The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) Mpumalanga engaged learners from the Gert Sibande District of the Mpumalanga Province and some parts of Kwa Zulu-Natal on career options in the water sector and water conservation during the Mondi Science Centre career expo held in Mkhondo from 06 to 10 May 2024.

The Learners were exposed to different career options in the water sector to empower them to make the correct choices. The learners were also engaged on water conservation and water saving tips were shared with them.

Ms Sabo Makgaloa explained the Water and Sanitation Education Programme to the learners and encouraged them to participate in the programme. She also shared careers in the water sector as a whole and encouraged the learners to consider careers in the sector to help fill the skills gap. She further motivated and encouraged the learners to use the opportunities available to them.

“Opportunities are there for you. You must be serious and use these opportunities for a better future and a better South Africa. We love you and we want you to be successful. It’s all up to you to use the information to develop yourselves”, she said.

Mr Themba Khoza and Ms Mirriam Chemo engaged the learners on water conservation and shared water saving tips with them. “South Africa is a water scarce country which ranks amongst the thirty driest countries in the world. In everything you do, always use water wisely and sparingly thinking about tomorrow. Water has no substitute and South Africa being a water scarce country requires everyone to use the available water sparingly. Climate change is also upon us and it has a negative impact on water availability. Therefore, let us not waste but let us save water in everything we do. Let us be responsible water users”, said Ms Chemo in her address to the learners.

The learners were also reminded about the importance of protecting water resources from pollution. “Pollution is a serious threat to our water resources. Pollution affects water quality making the water not fit for use, which simply means less water for us. The Department has opened criminal cases and is taking municipalities to court because they are polluting water resources and the environment. We further request you to prevent the pollution of water resources in your areas. Stop using the rivers and streams as waste dumping sites and stop throwing used disposable nappies into our water resources”, stated Mr Khoza.

SOUTH AFRICA IS A WATER SCARCE COUNTRY





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To make the sessions more interesting and inclusive, the learners were afforded an opportunity to share their water saving strategies and tips. They were also encouraged to become ambassadors of water conservation and the protection of water resources, and to also share the water saving tips with their friends and families. The learners were also encouraged to protect water and sanitation infrastructure from vandalism.

The learners were excited to know about the department's education programme and the vast array of careers in the water sector and they pledged to become water ambassadors and share the information in their communities.

One of the learners, Mzwandile Shandu from Ubuhlebuzile Secondary School was so happy that he attended the career exhibition. "The importance of career exhibitions is that they help us with information to know more about different careers and available bursaries. I learned a lot about the importance of water conservation and the different career options in the water sector. With the information I have acquired, I will encourage the youth and future generation to use water wisely and take care of the water resources and infrastructure since our country is a water scarce country", he said.

Themba Khoza

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