



INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS in Limpopo kick-start 2024 adjudications for Water and Sanitation Education Programme

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Today, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in Limpopo, joined by Lepelle Northern Water, kicked-off adjudications for the South African Youth Water Prize competition in preparation for national adjudications coming up in June. The adjudications were held at Kwena Moloto MASTECH College in Seshego, outside Polokwane and saw the participation of about 11 schools from different districts in the province.

This annual competition is part of the department's Water and Sanitation Education Programme (WSEP) - an innovation, science and technology based project aiming to motivate the youth to pursue water and sanitation management careers and to bridge the gap of scarce skills in the sector. The programme was launched in 1999 in collaboration with the Stockholm Water Foundation in Sweden. The competition begins in the provinces, with the winning school proceeding to national level. The national winners then will represent the country at the Stockholm Junior Water Prize (SJWP) in Stockholm, Sweden later in the year.

During the competitions learners are required to identify water and sanitation challenges they are experiencing at their schools or in their communities and come up with possible solutions that can be implemented to solve the problem. This can be presented in the form of an innovative model, charts or a verbal speech and should be accompanied by a written submission backed-up by research.

Outlining the purpose of the adjudications, DWS Director of Water Sector Support Mr. Thivhionali Masindi indicated that the main aim of the programme is to stimulate interest of the youth towards the water and sanitation sector and encourage them to pursue careers in water

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resource management. “The Department of Water and Sanitation’s core mandate mainly requires science and engineering, professions which are still scarce skills in the country. As a department we are therefore required to prepare for the scarce skills that we will require in future”, said Masindi.

Rendering a message of encouragement on behalf of adjudicators, a team made-up of both internal and external sector experts, Head of Partnership and Business Development at Water Research Commission Dr Mamohloding Tlhagale advised learners to first work on their anxiety and pitch good ideas so that they would represent the province and ultimately South Africa in Sweden.

Koroso Moloto

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