



**water affairs**

Department:  
Water Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY HONOURABLE DEPUTY MINISTER  
OF WATER AND SANITATION, HON PAMELA TSHWETE,  
YOUTH WATER SUMMIT AWARD CEREMONY**

**BIRCHWOOD HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTRE**

**04 JULY 2014**

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*Honourable Deputy Ministers*

*Premier of Gauteng Province*

*Fellow Colleagues in Government*

*Partners of the Business Community*

*Members of the Media Present*

*Partners and Sponsors of this Event*

*And Most of All, the Young People of South Africa*

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1. *Let me start by saying to my children here today that although not everyone will walk away with a prize you are all winners at the end of the day. Reaching this stage is no small feat, many other learners wished they would be part of this Summit but did not make it. As such I say give yourselves a round of applause.*

2. *The Summit began on Monday with a 2 kilometer walk around Birchwood Hotel.*
3. *We all had our banners held up high in the air with educative messages about water and sanitation. People in their cars and people in shops all came out to see what we were doing.*
4. *Some people in the street even hooted their cars to show the children that they support the walk for water resources management.*
5. *During the Baswa Le Meetse sessions, learners who are trained in public speaking were given the task of standing up in front of people and debating about water. Some were even performing poetry and song and dance on stage. We will announce those winners today.*
6. *This is why we would like for the Department of Arts and Culture to please consider supporting our initiative so that we can take the programme further.*
7. *When I went to Modderfontein Dam on Tuesday, I was so excited to stand next to the dam because it reminded me of the days when I used to fetch water by the river.*
8. *WESSA who are the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa showed us how the MiniSass toolkit can teach children like you how to test the quality of the water in the river.*

9. *My children, this MiniSass will help you so that you can test the rivers in your hometowns and report dirty rivers to municipalities and it will also teach you how to make sure that a river does not become polluted.*
10. *By next year, I want to hear the older children saying that they are going to take maths and science as subjects in schools. I would like to ask our sponsors to please ensure that we grow the number of children who are going to win bursaries at our Summits.*
11. *Also, when I first came here I saw many exhibitions and noted the many career guidance sessions that were taking place. These sessions are helpful to all of you here today because at the end of the day, they tell you what subjects to study and what kind of career you can have.*
12. *Our Gala Dinner last night was a way of hosting our funders and saying thank you. Some of the young people and educators here today also got to meet the sponsors and partners.*
13. *For the next Summit we must have more children from the 2020 Vision Programme, and even more educators from rural and township schools.*

14. *In order to have more children and educators in the Vision 2020 Programme and the Youth Summit, we need more sponsors to assist us.*
15. *Hence, we must call upon sister Departments who can work with us further like the Department of Higher Education, the Department of Arts and Culture, and members of the business sector.*
16. *In closing, today we shall be awarding winners in the form of bursaries and prizes. The categories are as follows:*
17. **Baswa le Meetse:** *A category sponsored by MTN to the tune of R2 million rand.*
18. **South African Water Prize:** *23 learners will win bursaries to study water related courses. National winners will represent South Africa in Sweden, Stockholm later this year.*
19. **Aqua Endruro:** *20 learners will be awarded bursaries.*
20. **Public Speaking:** *9 learners from each province will walk away with bursaries to further their studies in the water sector related courses.*
21. **ECO Schools Educators:** *45 learners will be empowered by Rhodes University and WESSA.*
22. *The national winners will be registered for the Eco - Schools project and will participate there for 3 years. The Eco -*

*Schools and Water Affairs team will provide hands on support.*

*23. To our sister Departments; Departments of Basic Education and Science and Technology, your continued support and participation can never be overstated.*

*24. To the following sponsors we are forever grateful for your commitment and continued support:*

- *MTN Foundation South Africa*
- *City of Ekurhuleni*
- *Sedibeng Water*
- *Rand water board*
- *The Water Research Commission*
- *The National Development Agency or NYDA*
- *Monash University*
- *Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa or WESSA*
- *Takalani Sesame*
- *Fibre Pipe*
- *The East Rand Water Care Company, Ochre media and the Trans Caledon Tunnel Authority.*

- *Lastly, our link into other parts of Africa is through AMCOW, the African Ministers' Council on Water. Let me thank Dr Nelson Gomonda from Water Aid for being present at the Youth Water Summit.*

*25. With all of you by our side, we will move South Africa forward without a shadow of a doubt.*

*26. I will now ask Honourable Deputy Minister of Police, Ms Maggie Sotyu, Honourable Deputy Minister of Housing, Ms Zou Kota-Fredericks, and the Premier of Gauteng, Mr David Mahkura to join me on stage as we announce and present the winners with their prizes.*

*I thank you*