



**2015 NATIONAL ANNUAL YOUTH SUMMIT GALA DINNER SPEECH
BY THE DEPUTY MINISTER, MS PAMELA TSHWETE
BIRCHWOOD HOTEL, BOKSBURG
01 JULY 2015**

Programme Director

Allow me to extend my warm greetings to my leaders present here today, the delegations representing the participating schools, the Out of School Youth, the Young Water and Sanitation Professionals, our Sponsors, our Partners and all Government officials present here.

I am told that all the nine provinces are sufficiently represented to this Summit. Ladies and Gentlemen the Youth Summit is taking place and will continue to take place in the month of June which is the Youth Month in our country.

The purpose of the Summit is to allow young people opportunity to express themselves on matters of water and sanitation. This forum mandates the young people to engage their communities on the agreed and tested solutions in the management of water and sanitation.

Ladies and gentlemen 2015 Annual Youth Water and Sanitation Summit has been graced by the presence of many important people in the water family to witness the Department listening to the Youth of South Africa.

Amongst many personalities present here today I have been advised of the following people. As I mention their names I will request them to greet our guests the learners and the audience at large:

Minister, Water and Sanitation, Honourable Nomvula Mokonyane,
Executive Mayor of Ekurhuleni, Councillor MondliGungubele,
Deputy Minister, Communication, Honourable Stella Ndabeni -
Abrahams,

Deputy Minister, Human Settlements, Honourable Zou Kota,
Deputy Minister, in the Presidency Honourable ButiManamela,
Deputy Minister, Basic Education Honourable EnverSurty,
MEC for Basic Education Honourable PanyazaLesufi

Ladies and gentlemen I would also welcome the officials standing in
for Minister, Social Development, Honourable BathabileDlamini and
Deputy Minister Arts and Culture, Honourable Rejoice Mabudafhasi

These leaders are here to work with us as the Department of Water
and Sanitation so that we can realise the vision of our fore fathers
and mothers of ensuring that "The doors of learning and culture shall
be open to all".

In keeping with this vision, we are gathered here today to mobilise
the younger generation to understand the pressing challenges
affecting service delivery, issues around climate change,
environmental degradation, the shortage of technical skills and the
general hygienic ways of living.

We are gathered here to share wisdom and learn from the Youth on
how to tackle these challenges affecting society and how to package
our messages for greater impact and understanding.

Programme Director, the first delegates arrived here on Sunday, 28
June 2015. Since their arrival they have been cared for,

entertained, robed in Summit regalia, taken through educational lectures and presentations.

The most exciting events were the 2, 5 kilometre walk around Birchwood and the visit to the exhibition stands where delegates collected themselves valuable information documents and gifts.

All these happy moments and goodies have been made possible by the generosity of our following Sponsors and Partners:

MTN
SANBI
WESSA
Rand Water
Sedibeng Water Board
Ekurhuleni Municipality
Water Research Commission
Monash University South Africa
Department of Arts and Culture
Department of Basic Education
East Rand Water Care Association
Trans Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA)

This Annual Youth and Sanitation Summit is anchored on the political will of leadership in the Department of Basic Education, the love and capabilities of educators and acceptance and enthusiasm by learners.

In addition to the education fraternity we have the Out of School Youth and Young Water Professionals. These groupings are supported by different organisations that continue to mobilise society towards acceptable behavioural norms and standards.

The 2015 Summit has been attended by 99 educators, representing 77 schools, 274 learners, 72 Departmental officials, 30 Out of School Youth and in total we had 552 Summit participating delegates.

I have noted the presence of the water supporting institutions such Monash University, Water Research Commission, Rand Water, Amathole Water, Sedibeng Water and WESSA.

These institutions have work very closely with our local municipalities, they have guided the Department in the Water management and sanitation provision. We are happy to also work with these institutions in nurturing talent amongst the young people.

Tomorrow after a long week of hard work the Summit will hand over the following awards to the winning schools and individuals.

1. BASWA LE MEETSE

15 schools will win themselves prize money. Half of each prize will go to the learner and the other half will go to the school to improve quality of learning.

5 schools will win themselves Media classrooms. These media classrooms will be provided with computers and internet connection.

2. AQUA ENDURO

20 Bursaries will be awarded to learners. These learners will study water and sanitation related careers.

3. ECO SCHOOLS

3 Schools with best water education practices win prize money

4. SOUTH AFRICAN YOUTH WATER PRIZE

23 Bursaries will be awarded to learners. These learners will study water and sanitation related careers.

5. PUBLIC SPEAKING

9 Bursaries will be awarded to learners. These learners will study water and sanitation related careers.

6. TEACHER WATER TRAINING

40 Educators will receive certificates of participation.

7. OUT OF SCHOOL YOUTH

Will receive prize money and with this money they will continue their work and teach others.

8. UNITED NATION AWARD

This award will be handed over to the Department of Water and Sanitation.

To our honoured guests, the Youth I want to present to you today UkhoMlenzana from the Western Cape one of the beneficiaries of the bursary awards. In 2009 she won the Baswa Le Meetse bursary award. In 2014 she won herself the Aqua Enduroburssary award and she has now won a scholarship to study Mechanical Engineering.

Ukho may you come forward. Let's give her a round of applause.
Siyaqhuba. South Africa is moving forward.

Ladies and gentlemen, through this Summit we fulfil our Constitutional mandate of facilitating public participation on matters of governance. Different sectors must all be involve in the work of bettering the lives of our people.

Honoured guests thank you very much for dignifying the 2015 Annual Youth Water and Sanitation Summit and giving confidence to the young person.

Thank you very much to you all for gracing our Gala Dinner which is always the climax of the Summit. Enjoy our hospitality and the Grace of the Lord.

I thank you