



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**WELCOME ADDRESS AT THE 2018 NATIONAL
ADJUDICATIONS**

**BY DEPUTY MINISTER WATER AND SANITATION
HON. PAMELA TSHWETE**

BOKSBURG, GAUTENG

25 JUNE 2018

Programme Director
Youth Programme Champions
Regional Coordinators
Educators and Learners
Our Honoured Guests:
The Adjudicators
Department of Basic Education
Department of Water and Sanitation
Youth Development Partners and Sponsors
Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning

It gives me great pleasure yet again to address this important gathering of young people during the youth month here at Birchwood.

On behalf of the Department of Water and Sanitation I wish to render our heartfelt apologies for all the inconveniences experienced during the coordination of this important event.

I am very happy to meet you again since the last session in 2017 of the national adjudications. The summit of 2018 is extra ordinary as it coincides with the 100th Celebrations of our stalwarts Mama Sisulu and Tata Mandela. They together during their time shaped the aspirations of the South Africa we want, a non-racial , non-sexist and prosperous country.

They were the architects of ensuring that young people play a central role in the affairs of our Country hence this initiative of the Department of Water and Sanitation. We are here to fulfil their mandate and that of the 1976 youth who sacrificed all to ensure that the door of learning and culture are opened to all.

It is always good to be part of these national adjudications because you witness robust competition amongst provinces. The most interesting part is that young people represent their provinces carrying the hopes and wishes of many people back at home. I take note of the interest that is developing and growing from all provinces and many schools in our country.

In this regard I want to credit all the national and provincial coordinators of this event, our stakeholders, educators and learners for the ground we are covering in our Intergrated water resource management awareness campaigns.

I wish to welcome you all to this 2018 National Adjudications and Youth Water Indaba. I hope you have learnt a lot on your journey here and will continue to learn as you interact with your peers from other provinces.

With all of our sponsors present here today, I guarantee you warmth in this cold weather of Boksburg. Thank you for opening your hearts to our children during this time of need. Let me take this

opportunity and wish all of you enjoyable moments and interesting times during your stay here.

This year I have mandated our youth not only to focus on adjudications but on Job Creation, Youth Development and Entrepreneurship as well.

I am proud this morning to tell you about the 2020 Vision for Water and Sanitation Education Programme, which you are part of. The department is investing in our youth by providing knowledge and skills development. This translates to promoting water efficiency, taking care of toilet facilities, good health and hygiene.

I therefore want to persuade you to consider studies that are related to the Water sector.

The goal of the Foundational Youth Empowerment, grade 4-6 participants, is to change behaviour and raise awareness on Water and Sanitation issues. Through the categories of Drama, Music, Poetry, Praise Poetry, and Postering you will be able to show and tell us about this year's theme. We also welcome back last year's winning schools who will be participating in the Intervention project, as we are trying to bridge the gap between theory and practice.

For the Secondary Youth Empowerment, grade 9-11 participants, our goal is to encourage you to study towards Water and Sanitation related fields. The Department of Water and Sanitation offers 67 bursaries every year which are:

- 20 for the SA Youth Water Prize;
- 20 for Aqua Enduro; as well as
- 27 for Public Speaking.

This opportunity continues after tertiary level whereby the Department of Water and Sanitation's goal is to expose the graduates to real time professionals and to offer work based experiences for Professional Registrations.

With your support and contribution in these youth programmes we are set to change the water and sanitation outlook of South Africa. As young leaders of tomorrow we must invest in you in such a way that they will sustain this environment for many generations to come.

It is only fitting that I leave you with these words from uTata Nelson Mandela. "To the youth of today, I also have a wish to make: be the scriptwriters of your destiny and feature yourself as stars that showed the way towards a brighter future". With these words I challenge you all to create the kind of world you want to live in, in the future.

The journey which started from the mobilisation to district and provincial adjudications suggests that you are all winners, and I am proud of each and every one of you.

Once more, let me take this opportunity to unreservedly and unconditionally apologise for any hiccups and challenges you experienced that will never happen again.

I thank you