



## MEDIA STATEMENT

### **Benjamin Primary drama comes third in Baswa Le Meetse National Adjudications**

10 October 2022

Benjamin Primary School from Matsulu in the City of Mbombela took third prize in the drama category in the Baswa Le Meetse National Adjudications of the Water and Sanitation Education Programme (WSEP) held in Boksburg from 03 to 07 October 2022. The school was awarded a cash prize of R10 000.00, a trophy and a certificate for their efforts.

The educator, facilitator and coach of the Benjamin Primary School team, Ms Esther Mbuyane was excited about the prize as it was the first time that the school entered the drama category. "We would like to thank the DWS Mpumalanga Office, the Department of Education, mentors and all the stakeholders who supported us during this journey. We learnt a lot from the support team and the national competition, and this will help us improve going forward. We are happy with the prize we got even though we are a bit disappointed we did not feature in the top three in the music category. I am happy for the kids as they also enjoyed themselves and learnt new things", she said.

Baswa Le Meetse is a project under the Water and Sanitation Education Programme (WSEP) targeting Grade 6 learners in Primary School. The learners participate in art forms as a way of educating one another about water use efficiency, proper sanitation practices and taking care and protecting the water resources. The art forms where the learners compete include drama, music, poetry, praise poetry and posters.

The Water and Sanitation Education Programme aims to educate learners about water use efficiency, protection of water resources, health and hygiene, invasive alien plants and encourage them to pursue careers in the water sector. It is one of the most important initiatives in ensuring that water and sanitation education is achieved within the public schooling system to encourage water literacy and change the attitudes and behaviour of learners towards wise water use and value water.

WSEP involves both primary and high school learners. The primary school prizes include cash, a certificate and a trophy for the winning schools and the high school participating learners win bursaries to further their careers in the water sector.

High school learners compete in three categories, aqua enduro, public speaking and the South African Youth Water Prize. Melissa Shabangu from Suikerland Secondary School won herself a bursary in the Aqua Enduro category. The other bursary winners are Botshelo Mathole from Mabothe Secondary School, Nomcebo Mazibuko from Sitintile Secondary School and Siyamthanda Dladla from Suikerland Secondary School who represented the Mpumalanga Province on public speaking.

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