



**water & sanitation**

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# **DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION YOUTH DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY ANNUAL REPORT FINANCIAL YEAR 2023/24**

## DOCUMENT CONTROL

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## ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AMCOW	African Ministers' Council on Water
DWS YS	Department
NYS 2020-2030	National Youth Strategy
EWSETA	Energy and Water Sector Education Training Authority
TVET	Technical Vocational Education and Training

## 1. BACKGROUND

Our department carries a vision which is dynamic, people centred , leading the effective management of the nation's water resources, to meet the needs of current and future generations. The Department further commits to establish a multi-stakeholder-oriented approach in addressing holistic youth challenges in the water and sanitation sector.

The Department of Water and Sanitation, through the Chief Directorate: IGR, Sector Transformation, and Provincial Governance, is coordinating and facilitating Youth Development Mainstreaming in the sector. The Sub-Directorate: Youth Development Component within the Directorate: Sector transformation is responsible for championing Youth Development initiatives within the water and sanitation sector. This is done through responsibilities within the sector to ensure the following:

- ✓ Intervention conceptualisation, planning, implementation, evaluation and reporting to the relevant institutions.
- ✓ stakeholder engagement and management
- ✓ advocacy, education, and awareness programmes
- ✓ coordination and facilitation of youth related activities
- ✓ Monitoring and evaluation of youth mainstreaming within the department and its entities
- ✓ Reporting on progress achieved internally and externally.

The Department works in partnership with many institutions in the youth development endeavour. It works with Other National and Provincial Departments, Local and District municipalities, Water and Sanitation institutions, Chapter Nine Institutions, Funding Agencies, EWSETA, SADC institutions and African Union, and private sector.

African Ministers' Council on Water which serves as the principal inter-governmental body on water issues and is composed of all 53 African Ministers responsible for water affairs in the region. The Council has the following functions:

- To keep the state of Africa's water resources under review and promote desirable actions of common interest to Africa,

- To facilitate sub-regional, regional, and international cooperation through the coordination of issues relating to water policies and actions among African countries,
- To support international cooperation on water-related issues through the development of common positions on matters of global concern as well as cooperation in the implementation of relevant conventions and international agreements, etc.

The Africa regional process of the 6th World Water Forum, 2012, identified the development of a **youth strategic plan** for the involvement of the youth in water and sanitation in Africa as one of the nine targets on which to focus within the water and sanitation sector. The process, involving wide stakeholder involvement, also proposed several 'solutions' to achieve the targets including, among others:

- Youth and gender strategic plans at the national level
- Involvement of all categories of youth: politicians, professionals, and less advantaged youth in water and sanitation initiatives in Africa
- Involve youth in scaling up livelihood-based initiatives around water and sanitation.

## **2. PROCESS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS INSTITUTIONALISING YOUTH DEVELOPMENT IN THE DEPARTMENT**

In May 2012 during the July in Johannesburg, a Youth Summit hosted by the South African Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs reviewed and elaborated extensively on the framework of the strategy. That process resulted in a first full draft strategy document. This draft was circulated to key stakeholders in the water and sanitation sectors across Africa for comment. The extensive consultation process resulted in the development of the DWS Youth Development Strategy. This document was developed to create an enabling environment for youth empowerment within the water and sanitation sectors. The framework covered the following areas:

- Guide youth empowerment actions and interventions of the DWS and its entities (internal and external), in SADC and the African continent.
- Provided guidance on Youth Development to be a responsibility of all Branches to create a collaborative working and sharing sense of responsibility.

- Create enabling environment, buy-in and target setting in pre-identified branches and business units within the Department and the sector.

Department of Water and Sanitation Youth Development Strategy emanates from the National Youth Policy 2020-30 (NYP 2020-30) which was passed by the Cabinet in October 2020. The NYP is aligned with the National Development Plan of the government. The National Youth Policy has five policy priority areas:

- Quality Education, Skills, and Second Chances,
- Economic Transformation, Entrepreneurship, and Job-Creation,
- Physical and Mental Health Promotion,
- Social Cohesion and Nation-Building and
- Effective and Responsive Youth Development Machinery

The overall objectives of the strategy is to:

- To skill young people through various deliberate and targeted education and learning programmes, inter alia, Candidate Training, Internship and Learnership Programmes.
- To promote vocational training as an alternative pathway to the world of work in the sector, with particular focus on the Not in Employment, Education and Training (NEET) population
- To create system in the sector that would allow youth owned business to actively participate in the mainstream of the economy and its capital programmes.
- To encourage social cohesion and nation building
- It is aligned to the NWRS 2 – Chapter 15 on skills and capacity building
- Establishment of Young Water Professionals (Developed and undeveloped)

The Water and Sanitation Youth Development Strategy therefore five pillars:

- Education and Training,
- Economic Transformation,
- Job-Creation, Entrepreneurship,
- Social Cohesion and Nation-Building
- Interdepartmental Working Relations.

### 3. LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK AND POLICIES APPLICABLE.

- **National Youth Policy 2020-2030** aimed at building and enhancing the capabilities of young people so that they are responsible and contributing members of their communities and society.
- **Chapter 2 under the Bill of Rights, Section 27(1)(a)(b)(c)(2)** sets out water resources management as a National competency. It also states that everyone has the right to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being and supports socially justifiable economic development.
- **Labour Relations Act 66 of 1995,**
- **Skills Development Act,**
- **Employment Equity Act 55 of 1999.**
- **Code of Good Practice: Key Aspects of Disability in the Workplace (2001) and National,**
- **Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act**
- National Water Resource Strategy 3 sets out the framework (i.e. strategies, plans, and Institutional arrangements within which the country's water resources will be managed).
- **National Development Plan 2030 priorities:** (Raise employment through faster economic growth, Improve the quality of Education, Skills development and innovation, building state capacity to play developmental and Transformative roles)

- **African Agenda 2063** (integration of infrastructure across the continent)
- **United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 6** to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all and other related goals and hygiene.

#### 4. PROGRESS REPORT IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FIVE YOUTH STRATEGY PILLARS

No	Pillar Name	Explanation of the Pillar	Progress to date
1	<b>Education and Training</b>	This pillar aims at addressing the skills constraint/shortage in Water Services and sanitation sectors e.g. The water quality report released last year clearly did show that the municipalities do not have qualified process controllers and were unable to reach the required water quality status. The Department in partnership with training institutions are engaged in short term training	100 youth are being trained as Wastewater process controllers and land scaping and irrigation in three local Municipalities (Umzimvubu, Winnie Madikizela Mandela and Maluti) of Alfred Nzo District Municipality. The programme is funded by EWSETA  100 young people are being trained on artisan programme during the augmentation programme or raising of dam walls of Tzaneen Dam and Clan

		programmes towards addressing such shortages. Education and training that prepares a workforce for employment opportunities	<p>William Dams in Limpopo and Western Cape respectively.</p> <p>57 bursaries are awarded to young people that studying water and sanitation related qualifications in Universities through Learning Academy</p> <p>Mentorship</p> <p>The Department is providing the young graduate trainees with three years mentorship programme in order for them to acquire professional registration with professional bodies.</p>
<b>2</b>	<b>Economic Transformation</b>	This is the pillar that encourages youth to start new or develop their existing water and sanitation businesses	<p>Youth and economic transformation</p> <p>The Department follows a policy direction of allocating 30% budget spent on Youth owned companies (Exempted Micro enterprises = EMS and Qualifying Small Enterprises = QSE)per month. (The Department struggles to achieve the 30% target on a month basis)</p> <p>On a monthly basis the tenders below R500 000 given to youth is monitored and for June 2024 only 20% was given to youth</p>

3	<b>Entrepreneurship and job creation</b>	<p>This is the pillar that encourages youth to start new or develop their existing water and sanitation businesses.</p>	<p>Youth and Entrepreneurship in the Department</p> <p>Two youth owned companies are appointed in the raising of the Tzaneen Dam.</p> <p>40 youth owned companies are in the process of being appointed in the raising of the Clan William Dam in the current financial year.</p> <p>Water use license workshops were coordinated nationally to assist youth owned farming companies to obtain water use licenses and move from emerging to commercial and also assist them to get funding from Agriculture.</p>
		<p>It also talks to the creation of new jobs especially for people who were previously unemployed or inactive. This talks to internal as well as external/community youth</p>	<p>55 graduate trainees are employed in the Department for 3 years with the possibility of being absorbed at the end of the training term</p> <p>The RBIG and WSIG programmes employ youth from communities in their short- term projects</p> <p>The Infrastructure Management Branch employs youth periodically in their short and long term projects.</p>

			<p>Internship and learnership programmes are targeting youth in the Department.</p>
4	<p><b>Inter-Departmental Relation</b></p>	<p>This pillar coordinates the process of facilitating communication, collaboration , and synergy between different Departments</p> <p>The Department has good working relationships with other national, SADC , UN and other International organization on Empowerment of youth programme</p>	<p>Collaborating with the United Nations Environment Programme World Water Quality Alliance: strengthening the role of citizen science and youth leadership in the water and sanitation sector through the Local Water Forums.</p> <p>In partnership with the Wavemakers United and various partners globally: Since the UN Water Conference, committed to educating at least 1 Million youngsters on WASH and Climate Change by 2030 as part of the Water Action Agenda. A South African committee and agreement has been established and still in progress to bring more partners on board to magnify the impact.</p> <p>Through African Youth Parliament for Water: Continuous intergenerational dialogues, engagements and research on youth leadership, inclusive water and sanitation sector, cross sectoral partnerships, entrepreneurship, innovation and sustainability.</p> <p><b>Bali 2024 - World Water Forum:</b> World Youth Parliament for Water 6th General Assembly for members, regional chapters, national chapters and individual members and partners. Activities and sessions</p>

			<p>involved, not limited to, disaster risk reduction, water and peace, stakeholder engagement and management, policy formulation, nature and community based solutions and more.</p> <p>Showcased youth-led impactful work and engaged (sharing knowledge, experience, lessons learnt etc) in WWF10 sessions tackling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● transformed and inclusive water and sanitation sector, youth water action plan, youth leadership and inclusion and decision making process led by South African Youth Parliament for Water and African Youth Parliament for Water</li> <li>● Transformative Change for the Future Water Smart Society with UNESCO and IHE Delft focusing on indigenous communities and knowledge</li> <li>● Big Data, research and Innovation with Nanjing Hydraulic Research Institute in China which resulted in co-launching the Scientific and Technical Innovation Cooperation Initiative for International Water Youth</li> </ul> <p>Partnership with Institutions of Higher Learning Institutions: University of Johannesburg, WITS, Durban University of Technology, Cape Peninsula University of Technology, Mangosuthu University of Technology and Ingwe TVET college: The activities involved are:</p>
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			<p>Monitor and advice on curriculum reviewed to ensure that it is aligned with industry needs such as smart technology,</p> <p>To promote collaboration in terms of research activities</p> <p>Capacitation of students and staff,</p> <p>To promote entrepreneurship and problem base learning (PBL),</p> <p>To assist graduate's placement in industries (graduate programmes, internships, learnerships, and special learning).</p> <p>The Department is represented in the forum that formulated the concept of "Bridging the Gap between the Industry and Academia".</p> <p>Partnership with AMCOW</p> <p>The Department Participated in the Africa-San Conference which is a platform for both technical, political, and all relevant stakeholders to discuss and share knowledge which is meant to address the</p>
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			<p>sanitation and hygiene challenges in Africa. ( discussions were around the YOGI strategy)</p> <p>Facilitating the implementation of the AMCOW Youth and Gender (YOGI) strategy in the Water and Sanitation sectors of South Africa.</p> <p>(Alignment of the YOGI strategy pillars with the pillars of the National Youth Strategy)</p>
5	<b>Social Cohesion and Nation Building</b>	Strength of relationships and the sense of solidarity among members of a community	<p>The department is in partnership with Toloane Youth Water Programme through DWS Gauteng province office. Through the youth water programmes which aim to combat the challenges of water scarcity and contamination in the City of Tshwane.</p> <p>The NGO will be participating in the upcoming National Youth Indaba showcasing the work they are doing to other young people.</p> <p>The business communities in Tzaneen and Clan William Dam communities were engaged to participate in the projects.</p>

## **5. CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUTH IN SOUTH AFRICA**

The youth in South Africa is facing the following main challenges:

- ✓ High unemployment rates: Water and Sanitation as a specialist area takes in very few numbers of employees.
- ✓ Low skills level – very few youth possesses the water and sanitation skills.
- ✓ Low level of entrepreneurial skills – Many young entrepreneurs are not in the water and sanitation space.
- ✓ Accessibility to economic opportunities: It is very difficult for the young entrepreneurs to access economic opportunities in the water and sanitation space because the area is very technical and the most of the skills acquired are mainly generic.

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**It is recommended that the Department improve mainstreaming of youth in the conception of projects and programmes, planning and implementation provide adequate resources in the following areas:**

- ❖ Skilling and reskilling programmes in areas which are still showing the legacy of the past.
- ❖ Adequately fund learnership and mentorship programmes for better and higher intake
- ❖ Intensify programmes and funding of the enterprise development for the benefit of the entrepreneurs with the BEE rating from level 1 – 3.

