



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Five Gauteng schools outclass their peers at DWS's Baswa le Meetse Competition.

12 June 2019

Five Gauteng primary schools have earned themselves places at the National Baswa le Meetse Competition following their spellbinding performances at the Gauteng Provincial Competition on Monday, 10 June 2019, at the Springs Civic Centre.

The competition drew learners from 12 education districts in Gauteng.

The competition targets Grade 5 and 6 learners using various creative art forms to transmit water and sanitation related messages. Learners competed under different categories including drama, music, poetry, praise poetry and poster.

Through the competition, which is part of the of Department of Water and Sanitation's (DWS) 2020 Vision for Water and Sanitation Education Programme, the Department seeks to drive community-based water literacy initiatives.

Explaining the purpose of the completion, DWS's Chief Development Officer, Mr Aifheli Makumbane, said the competition was a means to prompt the learners to be interested in the fields of water and sanitation, adding that young people were the future of the sector.

"South Africa is one of the driest countries in the world and therefore we need to come up with programmes to get young people to follow careers in the water and sanitation sector when they go to study at institutions of higher learning. The Baswa le Meetse Competition is one of the Department 's ways of ensuring young people act on the need to cast their eyes towards the much-needed careers," said Mr Makumbane.

Almost all the schools' performances focussed on the need to reduce water demand and prevention of water losses as a result of irresponsible behaviour. The conservation of water seemed to be the theme that ran through all the performances of the day.

On drama, the learners of Reimoletswe Primary Schools outperformed all the other competitors, claiming the top spot which put them in line to challenge for top honours at the national competition.

The Lihlasedi Primary school melted the hearts of judges when they won the poetry category and also paved their way to the national competition.

The category of praise poetry has been won by the Julius Sebola Primary School, which beat the other schools despite their good performances.

The performance of the Job Maseko Primary School was music to the ears of the judges, leading to the school winning the day under the music category.

The Lerutla Primary School did not disappoint when they came up tops and snatched the poster category.



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Ms Shoky Malepe, who is DWS's a coordinator of the competition in Gauteng had nothing but praise for the competitors, expressing her delight at standard of the competition.

She said: "The learners gave it their all this year. It showed that they really took the competition to heart in the manner they performed. And, this is proof that the competition is improving with each passing year. Above all, I am happy that the learners are internalising the importance of water issues."

The second and third position winners in the different categories are:

Drama:

Position 2: Masikhene Primary School

Position 3: Khaselihle Primary School

Poetry:

Position 2: Palisane Primary School

Position 3: Nageng Primary School

Praise Poetry:

Position 2: Phakamonola Primary School

Position 3: Ipendulo Primary School

Music:

Position 2: Rotegang Primary School

Position 3: St Francis Primary School

Poster:

Position 2: Thobeka Primary School

Position 3: GR Harris Primary School

Hosia Sithole