



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS's Gauteng provincial public speaking competition captures young minds

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The debate on finding solutions to a myriad of challenges that plague the water and sanitation sector captured the imagination of learners from various schools in Gauteng who participated in the Gauteng Provincial Public Speaking Competition.

The competition took place at Roodeplaats Training Centre in Pretoria on Friday, 10 May 2018.

The competition, which forms part of the Department of Water and Sanitation's (DWS) 2020 Vision Water and Sanitation Education Programme, is the main driver of community-based water literacy initiatives. The programme targets grade 10 and 11 learners to transmit the messages of water and sanitation related issues.

The Protea Glen Secondary School in Soweto whose learners won the Provincial South African Youth Water Prize on 03 May 2019, saw its other learners outperforming the other schools to win the first prize on the Public Speaking Competition.

A teacher from the winning school, Ms Ntando Ndwandwe, said the competition gave their learners a good platform to express themselves on issues of water and sanitation, adding that this exercise helped them to build on their confidence while they were seeking solutions to the challenges in the water sector.

Ms Ndwandwe said: "It was fulfilling to see our young people doing so very well. We have been preparing for this moment and now we are reaping the benefits. I must reiterate that this is not an easy thing, you really need to commit and make the learners realise that whatever they are doing involves their future."

The programme seeks to tap on high schools around the country to induce learners to follow careers in the water and sanitation sector by encouraging them to be active and responsible citizens that will be driven by Water Literacy initiatives.

"We want to thank the Department for this competition and giving our young people this kind of opportunities," said MS Ndwandwe, adding that the competition was meant to lessen financial burden on the participants' parents when these learners went to tertiary institutions.

The three learners, Joyous Maluleke, Tlangelani Mkasi and Vhuhwavho Ramulongo, who won the competition, were overjoyed at their success, ascribing it to hard work.

The other two schools that participated in the competition are Hoerskool Kempton Park and Sandtonview, who took positions two and three respectively.

Speaking on behalf of the learners, Joyous said they had done everything in their power to ensure that they came top, thanking their teachers for doing exceptionally well in preparing them for the competition.



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"We are grateful to our teachers who had done everything to make sure that we succeed in this competition. I don't think that we would have made it without them. They were forever nudging us in the right direction," enthused Joyous.

DWS's coordinator of the competition, Ms Shoky Malepe, praised both teachers and learners for doing a thorough work preparing for the competition and making an indelible mark in trying to find solutions to problems in the water and sanitation sector.

Ms Malepe said: "There are so many problems that continue to beset the water sector and these learners are critical to finding solutions to them. The vision of the Department is therefore to see to it that these learners go out of their way to follow careers in the water and sanitation sector so that they play a role in solving challenges."

Hosia Sithole