



INTERNET ARTICLE

Engaging the youth for sustainable water resources

20 May 2019

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) and the Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency (IUCMA) together with other stakeholders which included Ludlow Youth Development Centre, Wits University and Sefako Makgatho University engaged the youth in the Lower Sand Catchment at the Ludlow Community Hall in the rural Bushbuckridge Local Municipality on 17 May 2019.

The Department of Water and Sanitation reminded the audience of the importance of wise water use and water conservation in this water scarce country. DWS also encouraged the youth to take care and protect water resources for water resources and to protect and keep the environment clean to preserve the quality of groundwater as groundwater is the alternative water source as our surface water resources decline. The audience was also encouraged to be water ambassadors and promote water use efficiency in the communities as climate change is a reality and depleting water resources. To ensure water security, the youth was also encouraged to consider careers in the water sector.

Mr Thabiso Malemela from the IUCMA outlined the importance of water resource protection and encouraged the audience to take care of the resource as pollution has a serious negative impact on the water resources and water security in the country. He also outlined the courses required and the relevant careers at the IUCMA.

Ms Philasande Mahlako provided words of motivation to the youth. "Water is life so we need to take good care of it for our survival. The water sector needs females as it is dominated by males. It used to be dubbed a male field or profession, so ladies show the world that you are up to the challenge. Never give up, persevere and focus on your goal and you will achieve it. Never be discouraged by people telling you that you are not good enough on anything. Nothing is impossible, especially if you are determined to reach your goal. Failure is not always a bad thing. Fail and pick yourself up and focus on your goal with more energy and at the end you will conquer", she said in motivating the youth to reach out for their dreams.





water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Wits and Sefako Mafakgo universities outlined the importance of the environment and water resources and encouraged the youth to consider careers in the sector. The audience was also made aware of the different careers available for the youth and encouraged to apply on time as to secure their future.

Interest Magagula from the surrounding community appreciated the session and thanked the organizers for not forgetting the youth in rural areas. She promised to engage her friends and community members and encourage them to use the available water wisely and to protect the water resources as the session opened her mind to the fact that South Africa is a dry and water scarce country where every drop is valuable and counts for water security.

Themba Khoza



Department of Water and Sanitation South Africa



DWS_RSA