



INTERNET ARTICLE

Joburg youth get much-needed information about DWS's water careers

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On Monday, 22 March 2021, Gauteng Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in collaboration with Sci-Bono Discovery Centre were joined by youth in Johannesburg to celebrate annual World Water Day. Other stakeholders who had joined the celebration were Joburg Water and City of Joburg's City Parks.

A total of 83 learners - 44 from Persevere Until Something Happens (PUSH) and 39 from Kids Heaven Haven - were given wide-ranging information on water careers, water cycling, and hygiene tips which included proper handwashing practices.

The celebration was used to conscientise and educate learners about the importance of science as a school subject. Teachers and members of the public were also educated about the importance of mathematics, science, engineering and technology in everyday life.

In her presentation to learners, Ms Shoki Malepe from DWS said the youth were key to fortunes of the country and have a critical role to play in its development trajectory.

Ms Malepe added that for the youth to play a meaningful role in taking the country forward, they needed to be armed with skills that were suitable to the challenges facing the country.

She informed learners about diverse careers in the water sector and also encouraged them to come up with new innovations to deal with water shortages facing the country.

"South Africa is a water-scarce country and we need to maximise our expertise in the water sector. This is one sector that should not experience shortage of skills and we are doing everything in our power to ensure that the youth follow careers in this sector," Ms Malepe urged the learners.

She said the Department was running programmes such as the 2020 Vision for Water and Sanitation to create awareness about integrated water resource management and to promote careers in the water sector.

Ms Malepe further said: "If we as a Department don't have enough water engineers, we will not be in a position to upgrade our dams so that we can harvest more water. We need engineers, hydrologists and environmental managers. These skills will assist the country to deal with the challenge of water scarcity.

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