



INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS in North West hosts the Provincial Aqua Enduro Competitions

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The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in NW province commenced with their Aqua Enduro competitions the first week of September at the Bon Hotel in Rustenburg. The programme saw seven (7) learners from different schools in the province coming together to take part in the two days of learning, fun and games. These learners were from Mmabatho High School, ZM Seatlholo High School, Sol Plaatje Secondary School, Tiger Kloof Combined School, Holy Family Secondary, Ikopanyeng High School and Ramotshere High School. Out of the 7 learners participating, only six (6) will be chosen to participate in the National Aqua Enduro competitions on the week of 03 to 06 October 2022.

Aqua Enduro is the Department of Water and Sanitation's initiative to address the skill shortage in the scientific and engineering disciplines within the water sector at grass roots level. The National competition brings together grade 11 learners from various schools, from all the provinces, for a week-long event of water-and-sanitation-themed activities, sport and games.

In his opening message Mr Vukani Mtya, National programme manager for school intervention from Head Office told the learners that this is a good opportunity to learn about different skills to acquire in order to work for the Department of Water and Sanitation. "The Department needs skilled people, so that when we leave, we know that we are giving the baton to people who are both knowledgeable and skilled" Mr Mtya said. He wished all the learners success and finally told them that many people fail because they are afraid. Learners should strive to succeed and always remember that "the fear of failure is the fear of achieving" Mr Mtya concluded.

On the first day of the programme, learners were taken on a tour to the Rustenburg Waste Water Treatment Works and to the Bospoort Water Treatment Plant. The learners were given an opportunity to see first-hand experience on how waste is treated and how water is purified. After their visit this is what the representative of the learners had to say about the whole experience "We learnt more about the green drop and the blue drop and the difference between the two, and there's more to it than we think, we also learnt that green drop uses biological aspects and chemicals at the end and the blue drop uses chemicals throughout the process. We now know that electricity plays a vital role in the Water purification".

A representative of the educators Ms Seitebaleng Dire from Sol Plaatje had this to say of the experience "this is an educational program, we were not aware that water is not as simple as what we get from the tap, we were happy to learn about all the processes which goes into getting the final product, from the

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waste water to the water purification plant. We also learnt that external factors (dumping sites and littering) can pollute underground water”

On the second day both learners and educators took part in the aquabrilium exercise. The student came out victorious and this is what they had to say “team work won, we came here as individuals but we are going back home as friends” when asked about the whole experience the learners and educators said that this was an eye opener, they now understand how much work goes into getting a clean glass of water. They will go back home to teach their communities that every little drop counts, and that communities should stop wasting water and use more of white water for gardens. Communities should stop vandalizing water infrastructure.

Morekeng Phali

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