



INTERNET ARTICLE

Aqua Enduro: Teamwork key for success

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Melissa Shabangu from Suikerland Secondary School, the lone Aqua Enduro bursary recipient from the Mpumalanga Province during the Water and Sanitation Education Programme (WSEP) National Adjudications says she learnt that teamwork is key success, especially as no one lives in an island.

The WSEP National Adjudications took place during the school holidays from 03 to 07 October 2022 in Boksburg in the Gauteng Province.

The Water and Sanitation Education Programme aims to educate learners about water use efficiency, protection of water resources, health and hygiene, invasive alien plants and encourage them to pursue careers in the water sector. It is one of the most important initiatives in ensuring that water and sanitation education is achieved within the public schooling system to encourage water literacy and change the attitudes and behaviour of learners towards wise water use and value water.

Melissa who initially wanted to pursue a career in geohydrology is a little confused now of which career path to pursue after getting exposed to multitude of careers in the water and sanitation sector during the national adjudications week. "I am now not really sure of what career path to take, but it has to be something related to the environment, especially the water resources like geohydrology", she said.

"Throughout the competition and during the week, I learnt to work with others, basically teamwork. I learnt to be a true team player and that teamwork is key to success. I learnt that teamwork is basically pulling together for the benefit of all as each and every member of the team brings unique skills and attributes for the attainment of the group goals", she said in relation to working in a team.

The week also exposed Melissa to the water cycle and processes involved in getting water from the rivers and dams to the taps in households. This also increased her awareness and pushed her to be a real warrior and water ambassador in her community as she now understands the processes and costs involved in bringing water to the taps.

"I learnt about all the processes about water before it gets to our taps and how water is recycled so that it can be used again. Being here made me aware of how much it costs to get water purified and how important it is to use water efficiently. I am now aware that South Africa is a water scarce country and will promote water conservation and water use efficiency", she said.

The other bursary recipients from the Mpumalanga Province are Botshelo Mathole from Mabothe Secondary School, Nomcebo Mazibuko from Sitintile Secondary School and Siyamthanda Dladla from Suikerland Secondary School who represented the Mpumalanga Province on public speaking.

Themba Khoza