



INTENET ARTICLE

DWS appoints Rand Water to train plumbers and artisans

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The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has appointed Rand Water as the implementing agent to help us realise this ideal.

According to State President Jacob Zuma, a three-phased approach has been identified for the recruitment, training and deployment of the plumbers, artisans and water agents over the project period.

Speaking during the officials launch of the War on Leaks (WoL) pproject at the Dan Qege Stadium in Zwide Township, Port Elizabeth, President Zuma noted that the distribution in terms of numbers recruited, trained and deployed over the five year project period will be, 3 000 intake in 2015, 7 000 intake in 2016, and 5 000 intake in 2017 to make up the total of 15 000 in the first three years as mentioned during the 2015 State of the Nation Address (SONA) speech. "This programme will enable us to provide training opportunities to unemployed young people who can also be trained as water agents. They will be responsible for visiting communities to investigate water leaks and teach people to save water," he added.

"In the SONA in February this year, I announced that we would launch government's War on Leaks programme which is designed to train young people to curb water losses that are costing the country R7 billion a year. I said government, through the Department of Water and Sanitation, would train fifteen thousand (15000) artisans or plumbers who will fix leaking taps in their communities".

"We will train qualifying young people with Grade 12 or N3 with Maths and Science as fitters and turners, welders, instrument mechanics and electricians. They will do repairs, retrofitting and replacements. They will be placed in municipalities. Our key message to you today is that we must save water. Water is not unlimited. If we do not look after it, we will lose it" he said.

These losses, he pointed out, also occur in various forms such as underground infrastructure, faulty and poorly maintained equipment and ageing infrastructure. Municipalities are already engaged in big projects of refurbishing the infrastructure especially the leaking pipes.



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This project will bolster what the DWS and municipalities are busy with, to rebuild the broken pipes and other infrastructure. This is a national programme. Learners will be drawn from all nine provinces, focusing in particular on those areas that are designated as high water loss areas.

He concluded by noting that “Let me remind you that we have a responsibility to save water. When you see a leaking tap, close it. When you see a leaking pipe on the road, inform the authorities. Nobody should waste water. It is very scarce and we could find ourselves in difficulties if we do not act now to save water. It is for this reason that we are to train 15000 young people to help our communities to save water.”

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