



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### Education is about building the future – Deputy Minister Tshwete

1 December 2014

*The Deputy Minister (DM) of the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Pamela Tshwete, says education is about building the future including also being a key to success.*

*Addressing a Media Classroom Handover Ceremony at the eMpumalanga Primary School in Motherwell, Port Elizabeth in the Eastern Cape on Friday 28 November 2014, Deputy Minister Tshwete said: “Our dreams can only be realised when we are educated and have the correct skills needed both in the private and public sectors. It is through education that we can fight poverty, unemployment, diseases, crime, backwardness and other social injustices such as the abuse of children and women.”*

*The DM pointed out that the country is within the 16 Days of Activism during this time of the year, and that “we want to see this school also participating in that campaign by sending messages to the surrounding community about no violence against children, women and elderly people.”*

*DWS is working with other government departments such as the Department of Basic Education, the Department of Arts and Culture, the Department of Human Settlements and the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs to identify their needs in relation to water and sanitation as areas of focus.*

*She stressed that the campaign these departments are now rolling out is about saving water, protecting the environment, as well as developing and sourcing skills needed in the management and protection of the ecosystem. “Through the participation of schools in this programme, we hope to reach out to many parents out there and organise all communities into brigades that will work with us to protect and conserve the water sources,” said the DM.*

*The DWS is working hard through the Baswa Le Meetse, one of the department’s flagship programmes, which was launched in 2003 to mobilise and generate interest amongst young people to participate in water-related education.*

*The plan is that children must study science and maths as subjects so that when they reach university level they are able to take courses which qualify them in water and sanitation management technologies.*

*“In making this a reality in the 2013/2014 financial year 51 bursaries were given to deserving students, and now in the 2014/2015 financial year 50 bursaries have been awarded. Educators and parents must now ensure that most children follow science and maths subjects, especially the girl child,” said the DM.*

*The Baswa Le Meetse Awards targets grade 4 to grade 6 learners in five categories, which are, Drama, Traditional Music, Poetry, Praise Singing and Poster. “Your school entered for the drama category and won themselves position 1, provincially and nationally. The school became eligible for the MTN Media Classroom which consists of 21 computers with internet connection, with scientific programmes loaded and training of five educators plus a R 6 000 cash prize,” noted the Deputy Minister.*



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*The Deputy Minister reminded the audience that since the beginning of this project, 50 Media Classrooms have been handed all over the country and this is the fifth one to be handed to an Eastern Cape school. "This province deserves the best, especially from the young people," she said.*

**Ike Motsapi**

**Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation**

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