



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **Aqua Enduro coordinators unearth new generation of engineers and scientists**

03 January 2017

The Aqua Enduro coordinators are playing a pivotal role to unearth a new generation of talent that will breathe a fresh air into the water resources management and elevate the sector into greater heights.

A coordinator from KwaZulu-Natal, Ms Nokwanda Mkhize, explained how the programme helped her further her studies and what it means to be part of the programme as a co-ordinator.

“The benefit of being a provincial co-ordinator is that you get an opportunity to groom students. For the most part this competition is technical. Our responsibility as coordinators is to provide support to learners since they struggle with the technical aspect of the competition,” said Nokwanda.

She added that her desire as a coordinator was to see all students who participated in the competition receiving bursaries to further their studies in their chosen fields of study within the water sector.

Nokwanda lauded the competition for assisting young people to acquire technical skills that are really needed in the water sector.

The competition, which was recently held at Roodeplaat, Pretoria, exposed students to the importance of monitoring water resources, both domestically and commercially.

Gauteng provincial co-ordinator Ms Mhlabaze Malepe who guided her team to the top three positions in the national competition said being part of the programme gives her an absolute pleasure of mentoring students towards realising their career paths.

The competition identifies young minds within the mathematics and physical sciences stream, giving much-needed aid to those who would otherwise have been unable to continue their studies because of financial constraints.

“Seeing them through the competition and eventually getting bursaries to advance their careers is a personal achievement for me,” said Mhlabaze.

An initiative of the Department of Water and Sanitation, Aqua Enduro is aimed at addressing the skills shortage in science and engineering disciplines within the water sector.



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Since its inception in 2008, the competition has assisted over 150 students who obtained bursaries to study at the institutions of higher learning across the country.

Over and above the activities that the students did, they were also armed with skills of starting sustainable businesses in the water sector.

**Lucky Makgarengi**