



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
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INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS's offers 17 learners a lifeline

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In a step to promote the scarce skills in the water and sanitation sector, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has partnered with Izakhiwo Imfundo Bursary Trust to offer 17 students a one-year experiential learning opportunity that will arm them with the tools of trade for the working environment.

The experiential learning forms part of the student' studying programme and will culminate in the students completing their tertiary qualifications at their respective learning institutions.

This public-private partnership entails a five year agreement between the department and the Trust, which is aimed at offering engineering and construction students experiential learning in local government by awarding bursaries and providing training resources and facilities.

Izakhiwo Imfundo Bursary Trust is the brainchild of Group 5 Company and provides financial and technical support to students entering the water and sanitation sector.

Chairperson of Izakhiwo Imfundo Bursary Trust, Dr Namane Magau, described the programme as special in that it focuses on the absorption of talent into the sector.

She said as a private company they have been inspired by the amazing work of DWS in developing skills and talents.

"We felt that it was time we came on board to partner with the Department in promoting the development of talent in the sector and also facilitate student entry into the industry," Dr Namane Magau said.

The programme also addresses the disconnect that exists between the skills needed by the sector and those that are coming out from the higher education.

"This collaboration assists to ensure that entrance to the industry does not only come with the right qualifications, but ensures that students are prepared through experiential learning," Dr Magau added.

A beneficiary of the programme, Vaal University of Technology (VUT) third-year Civil Engineering student, Olga Mathebula, could not hide her jubilation during her first day at the Roodeplaat Training Centre.

She said: "This is a rare opportunity that will give me a platform to understand the industry better and also sharpen what I have learnt at the institution of higher learning."

Another student from the Central University of Technology (CUT), Calvin Jacobs, said he was looking forward to getting exposure into the real world of Civil Engineering.

"My expectations from the programme is to get as much knowledge, training and advices as possible from the professionals to enable me to successfully enter the working environment," said Jacobs.

Lucky Makgarengi