



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **KZN Celebrates Youth Month with a Youth Symposium**

03 June 2016

The Department of Water and Sanitation KwaZulu-Natal (DWS KZN) in partnership with Umgeni Water and Mhlathuze Water hosted a youth symposium to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of “June 16’ student uprisings” at Comprehensive High School in Vryheid on 03 June 2016.

The aim of the symposium was to commemorate the Youth Month, educate learners towards careers in water resource management and to motivate learners on out of school life experiences such as tertiary life, drugs etcetera. Learners in Grades 10, 11 and 12 were invited from these seven schools: Vryheid Comprehensive High, Mpofini Secondary, Filidi Secondary, kwaBhanya Secondary, Umfolozi Secondary, eNqabeni Secondary and Gelekendle Secondary Schools.

The symposium included presentations from experts from Umgeni Water and Mhlathuze Water.

“The DWS offers bursary opportunities for full-time studies. If you are interested in studying Engineering, Environmental Science, Microbiology or any related field, then this opportunity is for you”, said Bheki Ngubo from Directorate Water Sector Support.

Speaking at the symposium, Nkosi Cele from Umgeni Water, a Hydrologist, told learners that his job is within a discipline that studies sustainable water resource management, watershed modeling and fluid mechanics. Prospective hydrology engineers who want to learn to develop water systems have options for programmes in areas such as civil or hydraulic engineering.

Sesi Magubane from Mhlathuze Water began her presentation by telling learners that she had to repeat Grade 12 because she was not happy with her Mathematics results. Even though she got left behind by her peers, she stayed focused on her end-goal and has now overtaken some of her then school mates. She told learners that her job as a Chemist is to ensure that the quality of water is up to standard before it goes out to the public.

Xolile Cele from eNqabeni Secondary was so inspired from the symposium that she indicated that she has taken it upon herself to stay focused and to be an inspiration to other learners in her school and within her community.



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South Africa has made enormous strides in youth development over the past decades. This symposium is in line with one of the DWS' programme "2020 Vision" focusing on Youth Development Programmes.

This year marks 40 years since the 16 June 1976 uprisings which are commemorated each year. June is regarded as Youth Month; this year it will be celebrated under the theme "Youth Moving South Africa Forward".

**Mbali Mahaye**