



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Khotso and his dad sing DWS's praises

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Khotso Sefatsa has praised the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) for affording him the opportunity of the lifetime and to fulfil his childhood dreams.

He is doing his final year and he is left with one module in Bachelor of Science in Geology at the University of Free State after receiving a full bursary from the department.

The Virginia born Sefatsa says growing up, he was surrounded by mines and that is where the interest comes from. He says the conditions he grew up under, where days would go by struggling to get clean water stimulated his interest in the water sector because of his inquisitive nature.

He added that his interest in the water sector grew more after he participated in the Aqua Enduro programme of the department which is aimed at stimulating the minds of learners studying Mathematics and Science in Grade 10. This programme's objective is also to try and address the shortages of engineers and scientist in the water sector.

While studying at Harmony High School in Welkom, Free State, he represented his province where he competed in a challenge with his counter-parts from other provinces at the national competition held in Port Elizabeth and he excelled.

"I was so fortunate to do well during the competition and that performance opened the doors for me and as they say, the rest is history. It could have been anybody but I was the luckiest one and I never looked back ever since", he enthused.

In addition, he says he wants to work very hard and find solution to the current water challenges facing the country and his interest is mainly at underground water availability through science.

"I want water to be available to all citizens all over the country as we know that water is life. I want to use the knowledge gained in my studies and add value and help turn the current situation of water scarcity using science.

Sefatsa applauded and credited the Department of Water and Sanitation for offering him and other learners the opportunity to participate in Aqua Enduro Competition that opened doors for them in the water and sanitation sector.

His father, Molefe Sefatsa who works as a mineworker in Harmony Gold the bread winner to the family of five also offered words of appreciation to the Department for what it has done to his family.

"I really appreciate the wonderful work done by the Department of Water and Sanitation with the smooth bursary allocated Khotso to further his studies at the



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University of Free State. Not only him will benefit from this, but my entire family and the community at large”, he said.

Director of Water Sector Support Ms Priscilla Mohapi said by offering bursaries to learners, the Department tries to close the skills shortages experienced in the water sector currently.

“This is part of our Vision 2020 and the department is proud of this initiative because once the learners finish their studies, they will come and join the department. On top of that, this will also address the poverty and unemployment challenges in the country”, she concluded.

Marcus Monyakeni