



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS awards bursaries to close critical skills gap

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According to a report released by Global Competitiveness last year South Africa has the highest demand for engineers because of its critical nature in the water sector.

At the last United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation Africa Engineering Week at the University of Johannesburg, Science and Technology Minister, Naledi Pandor said that South Africa did not produce enough graduate engineers, which is worrying as good engineering made an important contribution to social welfare.

Nomagugu Ndabanganye, a 17 year-old from Pietermaritzburg in KwaZulu-Natal wants to make a contribution in the water sector and change the lives of others, contributing in the economic well-being of the country.

Department of Water and Sanitation has committed to make a meaningful contribution in Nomagugu's dream by offering her a full bursary to study towards Civil Engineering Degree at the University of Johannesburg.

"I believe I have the ability to make a difference in the lives of other people, particularly in the rural areas. Through this degree I hope to learn more about design and construction and be able to come up with innovative solutions of building dams." said Nomagugu.

Nomagugu achieved five distinctions in Mathematics, Physical science, Life Sciences, English and isiZulu.

Her passion for design, construction and having the ability to provide for her family is what kept her dedicated to her studies during her matric year.

"Had it not been for my perseverance, continued support from my family and teachers as well as studying hard, I would not have been able to have this opportunity," said Nomagugu.

The Department of Water and Sanitation through the learning academy continues to play a vital role in offering opportunities to the youth and closing the critical skills gap in the water and sanitation sector.

Since its establishment in 2007, the academy has awarded 761 bursaries to external learners (male 427, female 334), offered experiential learning to 268 learners (male



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190, female 78) and has appointed 626 Graduate Trainees (Male 363, Female 263) with some still needing to complete their training programme.

The success of the programme is measured by the fact that the department has been able to appoint 335 Graduate Trainees that have successfully completed their training programmes.

Nomagugu will complete her studies in 2020 and hopes to open her own construction company one day.

Mbalenhle Dlamini