



INTERNET ARTICLE

Deputy Minister Tshwete urges Peelton community to save water

27 February 2017

The Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation, Pam Tshwete, interacted with learners and teachers of Phillip Mtywaku Senior Secondary School during an Education Imbizo in Peelton location near King Williams Town on Saturday, 25 February 2017.

This Imbizo was part of the government's Back to School programme which started in January 2017, with visits to various schools across the country in an effort to lend support and encouragement to the education sector.

During the interaction, the teachers of the school highlighted various challenges such as the increasing number of learner drop outs as well as scarce resources, specifically those meant to assist learners who are doing science.

School Principal, Mr Kofi, said "The school is located in a disadvantaged community where most of the learners are coming from economically challenged backgrounds. Some learners beat the odds and pass their subjects with flying colours even though they come from disadvantaged backgrounds".

The Department of Education District Manager, Edgar Katshaza, said the school has been identified as one of the schools that will be prioritised in the next financial year.

"In the next financial year, the school infrastructure especially toilets will be built by the Department of Education infrastructure budget and vacancies will be filled," he added.

A community member appreciated the visit by Deputy Minister Tshwete and appealed to government to move with speed and build a library in the area that will benefit all the learners. She said that will also improve the pass rate in the school as learners will be able to study more.

During her address, Deputy Minister Tshwete said the functioning of schools is the responsibility of government, teachers, learners and parents. She said government has prioritised education as an area that needs more attention in order to improve the standard of education in the country.

"All Cabinet Ministers were tasked by President Jacob Zuma to choose a school and lead a Back to School programme to engage young citizens on issues in the education sector. This Back to School programme is a government call which seeks to send a clear message that South Africa is serious about education and is at the top of government priorities," she said.



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

The Deputy Minister also used the opportunity to educate parents, teachers and learners about water issues, saying water conservation is the responsibility of everyone.

“In South Africa there is a shortage of water and it must be saved. I also encourage you to pursue careers in engineering and hydrology in order for you to come up with long term solutions for saving water by building water storages underground so that when we are facing drought that water will be used,” concluded Deputy Minister Tshwete.

Lameki Jumba