



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **Millions of South Africans have access to clean drinking water – Deputy Minister Tshwete**

19 March 2015

*Since the dawn of the South African democracy government has been committed to providing clean safe drinking water to citizens, and to this point, the country has been able to provide more than 70% of its population with access to the resource.*

*This is according to the Deputy Minister (DM) of the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) Ms Pamela Tshwete during the handing over of a media classroom to Marota Primary School at Gamotodi Village at Greater Tubatse Local Municipality in Limpopo on Tuesday, 17 March 2015.*

*The DM explained that access to safe and clean drinking water is one of the rights “enshrined in our bill of rights and through this right the department has been able to achieve major milestones”. Deputy Minister Tshwete said that “We have done this through previous initiatives, the latest being the building of a mammoth infrastructure like the De Hoop Dam in the Greater Sekhukhune District Municipality to increase the storage capacity and benefit surrounding communities”.*

*DWS is also committed to the education and awareness of youth about the integrated management of water resources and healthy hygiene practices so that the communities are able to use, conserve and enjoy these resources for current and future generations while at the same time eradicating sanitation related diseases. “To achieve this, we have existing partnerships between public and private sector organisations to be able to pull resources together for the betterment of our country and its people”, the DM added.*

*DWS together with the Department of Basic Education and the MTN Foundation- SA are supporting projects such as Baswa le Meetse every year, including programmes such as the National Water Weeks (NWW). This year’s NWW is from 16 March to 22 March 2015 - to highlight the importance of water education to the nation.*

*Baswa le Meetse is one of DWS’ flagship projects aimed at educating learners about integrated water resources management and it also encourages learners to take up science and engineering careers in the water and sanitation sector. This is done to address the current scarce skills challenges. With this project learners learn through art, music, drama, poetry, praise-singing and poster tools ways to convey water and sanitation messages.*

*In presenting the class room to the learners, teachers, officials and other related-stakeholders, the DM said Marota Primary School is “one of our water wise ambassadors and winners of the national level prize who must continue to convey the message of water education from the school, to their families and the community. Through this media classroom*



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*the school and the community must benefit because it is equipped with educational programmes and software to assist in the learning areas within the school curriculum. Learners must have excess to the world's e-libraries by clicking at a set button and also take part in looking after the condition of this valuable asset," the DM said.*

*The school received a media classroom sponsored by DWS' partner MTN Foundation SA and a cash prize of R6000.00 sponsored by Rand Water Board (RWB).*

*The DM called upon the whole community to support learning in the school by safe guarding and protecting the assets of the school as they are for the betterment of learners and community now and in the future. "Let us refrain from bad practices such as vandalism and burning down of community property when there are challenges in our communities but work hand in hand to solve them for our good," DM Tshwete concluded.*

**Ike Motsapi**

**Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation**

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