



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Reflecting on DWS's Successes in 2014/2015 –Deputy Minister

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The Deputy Minister (DM) of the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Pamela Tshwete says the departmental successes in the last financial year included improved international relations.

Deputy Minister Tshwete pointed out that the DWS was hosted by different nations of the world through participation in conferences adding that the department also hosted the world in gatherings such as the "Gender, Water and Development Conference."

Addressing members of the National Council of Provinces in Parliament, Cape Town recently, the Deputy Minister said: "We have sourced the services of the Cuban nationals for deployment in municipalities where we do not have the required technical skills." Through the Echo Schools Programme DWS received a United Nations award for "Water for Life Best Practice". "This has been about innovation in technology in water usage and conservation," added the DM.

Also, working with MTN Foundation, the department has delivered five Media Classrooms to different schools. Two of these Media Classrooms were given to schools in Limpopo, the other two to schools in the Eastern Cape and one to a school in Gauteng.

The department has built very strong relations at political and administrative levels with all the nine provinces in terms of planning and budgeting. "We are working with the nine provinces to develop water and sanitation plans that will inform our broad strategy on the work to be done in the resolution of challenges and backlogs facing the sector," said the DM.

She disclosed that all Premiers and the Department of Cooperative Government and Traditional Affairs (DCOGTA) Members of the all provincial executive committees (MECs) are championing and supporting DWS's work in the respective provinces. This is reflected in the wide spread of developmental and infrastructural programmes planned throughout the country in this financial year.

The department has managed to mobilise civil society into the water family. In KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo the traditional leadership has committed and rallied around the programmes we are unfolding.

The Water and the Sanitation Summits which the department successfully held introduced new partners and identified new game changers in the provision of water and sanitation services. We have seen both water and sanitation technologies never seen before. "We believe through these new technologies in water and sanitation we will change the lives of the people for the better. Our social and operation base was increased by the involvement of both rural and urban communities, district and local municipalities, academics, technical experts, business people, youth participation and women involvement in the work we are doing," concluded the DM.

Ike Motsapi