



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

The quality of water and sanitation service operations in Gauteng has always been good – Deputy Minister

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The Deputy Minister of the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Pamela Tshwete says the quality of water and sanitation service operations in Gauteng has always been good and the municipalities in this province are always among the top performing Water Services Authorities (WSA) in the country.

Addressing the audience during the National Annual Youth Summit on Water and Sanitation held at the Birchwood Hotel and Conference Centre in Boksburg, east of Johannesburg, the DM expressed her thankfulness for the presence of the water supporting institutions such as research bodies, water boards and technology innovators which all form part of our big water and sanitation family.

She said: “Ladies and gentlemen my heart is filled with boundless joy as I welcome all of you to this historic National Annual Youth Summit, held in Ekurhuleni, Gauteng. It is always good to bring young learners and teachers to Gauteng because of its strategic location. Gauteng is located in the Highveld. The Highveld forms South Africa's inland plateau and shares borders with almost all the other nine provinces except the Western Cape.”

This National Annual Youth Summit is an assemblage of young South Africans who have recognised that South Africa is a water scarce country and that the sanitation provision levels are not adequate.

These young people have taken it upon themselves to work towards the conservation of nature and reduce the most pressing threats of life on earth. Their journey in life is about security of fresh water for people and animals.

The National Annual Youth Summit exposes the youth to various programmes and activities that will further enhance their knowledge and interest in water and sanitation related careers.

Young people participated in educational excursions, lectures, in career expositions, in public speaking through youth debates, in exhibitions and in competitions. This week long programme culminated in an award ceremony to acknowledge excellence in teaching and learning on issues of water and sanitation.

The importance of education in this programme is, in keeping with the words of the old Senegalese ecologist, Dr Baba Dioum who wrote in 1968, that education is a critical response towards achieving behavioural change regarding issues of natural resource management.

He said: “In the end we will conserve only what we love;

We will love only what we understand and;

We will understand only what we have been taught.

“So educators teach your learners ...

so they may understand ...



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for if they understand the importance of water ...

they will love our precious resource

And when they love water ...

They will conserve!

Ike Motsapi