



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Internet Article

Young people will stop R7 billion from “leaking away”

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President Jacob Zuma officially launched the War on Leaks (WoL) programme at Dan Qeqe Stadium in Zwide Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape.

Led by Minister Nomvula Mokonyane, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) initiated the massive War on Leaks project after President Jacob Zuma raised a serious concern during his 2015 State of the Nation Address, that South Africa is losing R7 billion every year due to water that is lost through leaks, and that 15 000 plumbers and artisans should be trained through DWS to fix leaking taps and pipes in communities.

The War on Leaks programme will enable government to save money lost through unaccounted for water; provide skills and create job opportunities for young people; and minimise the amount of water lost through leaks.

DWS appointed Rand Water as the implementing agent for the programme. In the current financial year (2015/2016) Rand Water has recruited 3000 youth across the country who are ready to be equipped with technical skills and kick start the programme. Through this project, government is propelling young people to the forefront of water conservation and resource management initiatives, while creating much needed jobs.

The first 3000 recruits and the subsequent 12 000 will be divided into the three disciplines of plumbers, artisans, and water agents. After completion of the course, they will fix leaks at homes, clinics, schools, and other public buildings whilst also raising the mantle of water conservation and demand management.



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Rand Water will recruit more youth over the next two years to ensure that the total number of trained artisans across the country adds up to 15 000 by the year 2017. During the War on Leaks launch the president mentioned that government will train plumbers who will assist in a number of things including repairing the sources of the leaks. Qualifying young people with Grade 12 or N3 with Maths and Science will be trained as fitters and turners, welders, instrument mechanics and electricians. They will do repairs, profiting and replacements and will be placed in municipalities.

President Zuma further said that municipalities are already engaged in big projects of refurbishing the infrastructure especially the leaking pipes. This project will bolster what the Department of Water and Sanitation as well as municipalities are busy with, to rebuild the broken pipes and other infrastructure

Velly Maribe