



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### Lebeko High School learners crowned 2017 SAYWP winners

05 June 2017

Three Grade 11 learners from Limpopo Province are riding the crest of a wave after winning the South African Youth Water Prize (SAYWP) Competition which was held at the Manhattan Hotel in Pretoria on 01 and 02 June 2017.

Organised by the Department of Water and Sanitation, the competition was a carnival of innovative scientific solutions to challenges facing the water and sanitation sector. Learners had to come up with out of the box solutions, providing a breath of fresh air in the arsenal of solutions for the sector.

The three Grade 11 learners, Mmola Temogelo, Desmond Mokgotho and Wayne Nkwane from Mashashane Village, crowned as the winners of this year's competition with their project titled "**Water wastage - a thing of the past**". The proud young minds trounced learners from other provinces who were also in the race for the big prize.

The trio secured a place for themselves at the International Youth Water Prize Competition to be held in August at the Stockholm International Water Institute in Stockholm, Sweden to represent South Africa. They will be joined by the Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation, Ms Pamela Tshwete.

Apart from the prestigious all-expenses-paid trip to Sweden, the learners walked away with laptops and bursaries to study any water-related career from a university of their choice in South Africa.

Addressing the learners on the first day of the competition Deputy Director-General (DDG), Deborah Mochotlhi, said South Africa was still a developing country with water and sanitation challenges.

She told the learners that there is going to be one winner at the end of the competition, but that all of them had a role to play in the water and sanitation sector as future scientists and engineers.

"We need your expertise on how quick and affordable we can provide water to all South African citizens", said DDG Mochotlhi.

Hlengiwe Cele of the Water Research Commission (WRC) and one of the adjudicators in the competition told learners that there was a lot of space for them to grow in the sector.

"We do not have enough engineers and scientists in the country. The water and sanitation sector needs you," said Cele.

Cele encouraged the learners not to give up even if their projects did not win in the national competition, saying the WRC does offer funding for research projects that brought solutions to the water and sanitation problems.



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"You are welcome to submit your proposals to the WRC for funding, indicating the research area you wish to pursue", Cele concluded.

**Lucky Makgarengi**