



water & sanitation

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Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

SA youth innovation makes mark at the Stockholm Junior Water Prize Competition

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Three Limpopo learners who participated in the annual Stockholm Junior Water Prize Competition have proven that South Africa has got talent that holds its own at an international stage.

The creative minds, Wayne Nkwane (17), Desmond Mmola (16) and Temogelo Mogofo (16) went head-to-head with the other young people from 32 countries at a glittering event on 29 August 2017, held at the Grand Hotel in Stockholm, Sweden.

The Stockholm Junior Water Prize is part of the World Water Week and focuses on youth's creativity to find solutions to water challenges worldwide.

The South African team showcased a water conservation device that seeks to help schools and communities to save water.

The SA trio, from Lebeko High School in Phalaborwa, Mashishimale Village, shot to prominence when they won the Department of Water and Sanitation's (DWS's) South African Youth Water Prize (SAYWP) competition, earning them the kudos and a place to represent the country in Sweden.

The SAYWP is one of the projects that the Department is implementing in its education programme called 2020 Vision for Water Education Programme.

South Africa and Nigeria were the only two countries that participated in the competition.

DWS Minister, Ms Nomvula Mokonyane congratulated the learners for having represented South Africa at the prestigious event, saying that their participation showed that the country was in good hands.

Minister Mokonyane said: "These young people should not worry that they have not won the competition. To us they are already winners because they compete with the finest in the world. We are proud of them and their future and that of our country looks bright."

The national organiser of the SA Youth Water Prize, Ms Unathi Mila echoed the Minister's sentiments, reiterating that the South Africa's presence has been felt in the competition. Mila said the innovative ideas of learners from South Africa have always drawn the attention of other participating countries.

"This shows that we are amongst the best in the world," added the proud Mila.



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The South African learners agreed that although they have not won the competition, there was a great deal to learn from their peers from all over the world. They said they now have a responsibility on their shoulders to motivate other learners back home about the endless possibilities in Science.

“Many of the learners are scared to take up subjects such as Science because they are seen to be difficult. We encourage them to work hard and through this they will see that they have potential to make it,” said the enthusiastic group.

One of the learners, Temogelo Mokgotho, quipped that Science was in hearts of many learners and they should just explore with that side of their lives. “We have come up with a good innovation but I can assure you that there are many great ideas that exist in the hearts of many of our school mates. We want them to challenge themselves to come up with ideas because we know they can,” said the optimistic Mokgotho.

The competition was won by a group of students from the United States of America.

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