



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

SAYWP encourages innovative Water Management from the Youth

09 May 2017

Learners from different schools in the Mpumalanga Province showcased their innovative ways of water management during the annual South African Youth Water Prize (SAYWP) provincial competition held at Valencia Community Hall in the City of Mbombela on 09 May 2017.

The provincial competition was won by Sitintile Secondary School who will now represent the province against other provincial winners during the national competition. For their efforts and innovation, Sitintile Secondary School walks away with R3 000.00. Khaliphani Secondary School walks away with R2 000.00 for coming second and R1 000.00 goes to Mandlesive Secondary School for coming third.

Thandi Khoza from the winning team of Sitintile Secondary School was so excited with their achievements and said “winning the competition is so motivating and encouraging. No matter how limited time you have, hard work and perseverance is crucial to achieve your goal. Our team sacrificed and put extra time and effort to see our project succeeding. Going to the national competition is not all about winning, but it is an opportunity to learn more. It is more about learning”.

The South African Youth Water Prize is the Department of Water and Sanitation’s project to enhance the interest of learners in water and sanitation related careers and address the skills shortage challenge in the country. The SAYWP competition encourages learners to identify water and sanitation related problems in their schools or communities, conduct research, recommend and implement solutions. This requires the learners to be innovative to come up with workable solutions.

The SAYWP is part of the Department’s broader 2020 Vision for Water and Sanitation Education Programme (VFWSEP) which is a school based education programme which promotes water use efficiency, water quality management, awareness creation about alien invasive plants and their impact on water resources, and health and hygiene. The programme is implemented in collaboration with the Department of Education.



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The competition provides an opportunity for learners to get an understanding of the water and sanitation sector and the opportunities and careers in the sector. “This competition opened my mind and made me aware of opportunities in the water sector. It opened my mind of the importance of water and the role we need to play in water conservation. The advice and inputs we got from the adjudicators is so valuable and will help in preparing for the competition in the future”, stated Andile Nkalanga from Mandlesive Secondary School.

Themba Khoza