



INTERNET ARTICLE

North West learners receive bursaries in the National South African Youth Water Prize

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Two learners, Onkabetse Mutloane and Tumisang Hofman from Golfview Secondary School in Mahikeng from the North West Province represented the province in the National South African Youth Water Prize (SAYWP) which was held in Boksburg on Friday 19 May 2023.

Even though they did not win at the nationals, for being the provincial winners, the two learners will receive bursaries which will cover accommodation, books and pocket money from first year until they complete their studies. Upon finishing their studies, the department will absorb them for a period of three years to learn ropes of a working environment and for them to acquire necessary skills. They will also receive laptops and a prize money of R6000 from the Department.

They were ecstatic to have won the Provincial competition and now represent the province in the National competition. They give thanks to their physical science educator who encouraged and supported them to join the competition.

Their design was the full tank alert and automated tap system is innovated to conserve water in two ways. Conservation of water by full tank alert; when water fills the tank, an automated switch will alert users to switch it off to prevent an overflow of water in the tank.

“Sir said that this competition will open up a lot of doors of opportunities for us” said Tumisang Hofman.

The learners have described their journey as both interesting and educational. “Throughout this competition we have learnt a lot of things, it was a great experience, taking part in this competition, we got to try new things, and were able to get position one in the whole province” added Tumisang.

The learners said that they will advise other learners to join the competition because while learning, you also get the opportunity to get a bursary, travel to a different province, get to meet different people and make new friends.

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 competition begins at provincial level and the proceeds to the national level. The national winner represents South Africa in the Stockholm Junior Water Prize (SJWP) in Stockholm, Sweden to compete with learners from 30 countries annually.

The objectives of the programme is to promote the protection of South Africa’s natural resources by encouraging and empowering youth to participate actively in integrated and community based water resource management; expose and enhance the interest of the youth to science and technology; motivate the youth to pursue water and sanitation management careers; provide opportunities for

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the youth to interact with their peers in order to share knowledge and experiences related to water and the environment nationally and internationally.

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.

According to Mr Mogosetso the Provincial coordinator “Educators and parents needs to work hard in assisting the Department to realise the objectives of addressing the skills shortage and protection of our water resources by encouraging and supporting learners to participate on water and sanitation education programme”

Morekeng Phali