



## INTERNET ARTICLE

### **Middelburg Muslim School to represent Mpumalanga in South African Youth Water Prize**

**23 May 2024**

Middelburg Muslim School from Steve Tshwete Local Municipality in the Nkangala District will represent the Mpumalanga Province in the national adjudications of the South African Youth Water Prize competition after attaining first position during the provincial adjudications held in Mbombela on 21 May 2024.

Nonduduzo Maseko, a learner from Middelburg Muslim School reigned supreme with her awareness project which defeated the other participating learners from the other competing schools. With her outstanding performance, she has already secured a bursary from the department.

The SAYWP is an educational competition of the Department of Water and Sanitation aimed at Grade 9 to 11 learners not older than 20 years. The participating learners must be individuals or groups of not more than two and they must be innovative and passionate about water and the environment. The participants must identify problems related to water in their school or community and take action that includes initiating a project, do research, recommend solutions, and develop a model or invention that will solve the identified problem.

The Water and Sanitation Education Programme aims to educate learners about water use efficiency, protection of water resources, health and hygiene, invasive alien plants and encourage them to pursue careers in the water sector. It is one of the most important initiatives in ensuring that water and sanitation education is achieved within the public schooling system to encourage water literacy and change the attitudes and behaviour of learners towards wise water use and to value water. The WSEP is implemented through the following projects: Baswa Le Meetse, South African Youth Water Prize, Aqua Enduro, Public Speaking, Curriculum Support, Intervention Projects, Career Promotion and Celebration of Special Days.

15 year old Nonduduzo was pleased with her performance and getting the opportunity to represent the Mpumalanga Province and pitch her ideas against other winners from the other eight provinces in pursuit of the national crown. "I have taken note of the comments from the adjudicators and some points from my fellow competitors and will definitely improve my project going into the national competition. To motivate others, I will continue with my project and create awareness, especially because is our only source of water", she said.

Nonduduzo is now an ambassador of water conservation and promised to spread the message of water conservation and the protection of water resources to her friends, family members and the community at large. "Conserve water as much as you can, find new ways

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to conserve water, look at issues that are currently challenging in your area and find new ways to preserve water and water resources. I would encourage more young people to enter this competition so that they can share more ideas and contribute to water security in the country. I now understand that South Africa is a water scarce country, so we must all conserve water to ensure water supply security”, she said.

**Themba Khoza**

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