



## INTERNET ARTICLE

### Young minds driving water sector solutions in Capricorn District Municipality

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Department of Water and Sanitation in Limpopo has officially commenced with its 2026 South African Youth Water Prize (SAYWP) adjudications across all five provincial districts.

The adjudications, which began on 22 April and concludes on 5 May, are part of the Department's Water and Sanitation Education Programme aimed at equipping young people with knowledge, critical thinking skills, and a platform to engage on pressing water and sanitation issues in South Africa.

Strengthening this school based programme that has been running for years, learners from schools across Limpopo have actively participated in district adjudications in impressive numbers this year, showcasing their knowledge and creativity as well as their passion for water and sanitation issues. The focus this year in Limpopo was only on public speaking and project innovations/inventions on water and sanitation categories. Learners presented creative solutions that address real-world challenges such as water conservation, sustainable usage and access to clean water. With public speaking category guided by the theme, *"Water-wise leadership for community resilience: educating, empowering and mobilizing citizens for a sustainable water and sanitation future"*.

The provincial programme coordinator, Mr. Ngoako Ramonetha, explained that the purpose of the programme is to develop future engineers who will design and implement water solutions for South Africa, while also addressing the shortage of critical skills within the water sector. "The benefits of these adjudications are so rewarding that the winning learners will have the opportunity to represent Limpopo at the National adjudication level. From there, winners will represent South Africa on an international stage in Stockholm, Sweden, where they compete in the global finals," said Ramonetha

He further explained that the Department will play a key role in supporting successful learners by providing them with bursaries to further their studies at tertiary level. This initiative ensures that participants are not only recognised for their achievements but are also given the opportunity to pursue careers in the water and sanitation sector.

At the Capricorn District Municipality leg of adjudications, Mr. Thubakgale, a teacher from Dendron High School speaking on behalf of participating schools, expressed appreciation for the initiative by the Department, noting that it provides learners with

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valuable exposure, skills development, and opportunities to engage meaningfully with real-world water and sanitation challenges. The teacher highlighted that the programme plays an important role in building learners' confidence, improving their public speaking abilities, and encouraging innovative thinking. He added that such initiatives are essential in preparing young people for future careers in the water sector while also empowering them to become water ambassadors in their communities.

In the innovation category, Taxila Secondary School took first position with Khaiso Secondary School as second position and Dendron Secondary School as third position. The public speaking project also highlighted exceptional talent, with Dendron Secondary School securing first position, followed by SJ Van Der Merwe Technical High School in second position, and Glass Mothapo Secondary School in third position. Learners impressed adjudicators with their confidence, clarity, and depth of understanding on key water-related issues.

The top two schools from each category will represent Capricorn District against other districts at the Limpopo Provincial Adjudications scheduled for 12 May 2026, while the Public Speaking adjudications will take place on 14 May 2026.

**Koroso Moloto**

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