



## INTERNET ARTICLE

### **KZN learners to carry hopes of South Africa at Stockholm Junior Youth Water Prize in Sweden**

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Two learners from the Star College High School in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, are riding the wave of their success at the 20<sup>th</sup> South African Youth Water Prize (SAYWP) Competition, which places them as one of the country's top young innovators.

The pair was announced as winners of the 2019 SAYWP following their impressive innovation that went to the core of modernising water resource management efforts in the country.

Their project, the Hydro-Conservation, intends to reduce the quantity of water that is wasted daily in households across South Africa during showering and handwashing processes.

This year's SAYWP Competition took place at the Kopanong Hotel in Benoni from 16 – 17 May 2019.

The grade 11 learners, Kiara Chetty and Calden Gounden, earned themselves full bursaries and prize money and the opportunity to represent South Africa at the Annual Stockholm Junior Youth Water Prize (SJWP) in Stockholm, Sweden at the end of August. They will compete with other creative minds from 35 countries around the world.

The SAYWP is a Science-and-Technology-based project and is coordinated by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS). The project started from provinces and progressed to the national competition where the winners were crowned.

One of the aims of the project is to promote the protection of natural resources and to encourage the youth to actively participate in integrated and community based water resource management.

Thrilled by their win, the duo said the competition has changed their lives for the better, adding that they looked forward to entering an international stage where they would compete with other young innovators.

Kiara said: "We know we did our best with our innovation but we never expected to be announced as winners. This shows this innovation is one of those that will in future assist the country to conserve water, which is depleting at an alarming rate."

Calden conceded that they faced a number of challenges when conceptualising their project including electronic parts being ultra-sensitive, micro controller blowing, containing water leakages and making sure the model was water tight, while also building a prototype with minimal funding.

"As a result, we did not imagine that we can be crowned winners. But we are excited to represent the hopes of our country in Stockholm. This is a life changing experience for us," said the excited Calden.



## water & sanitation

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The duo thanked the Department, teachers and their parents for pointing them in the right direction and thus ultimately scoop one of the coveted prizes for young people in the country.

**Khulekani Ngcobo**