



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **Resource-challenged Protea Glen Secondary School measures up to expectation**

20 May 2019

The Protea Glen Secondary School learners in Soweto measured up to the expectation of the Gauteng Province and proved to be worthy contenders at the South Africa Youth Water Prize (SAYWP) Competition.

The Gauteng twosome, Lebohang Manganyi and Faith Kubayi, snatched the third spot at the hotly contested competition, which took place from 16-17 May 2019 at the Kopanong Hotel in Benoni.

The competition is coordinated by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) and is in response to chronic shortage of critical skills in the water sector. It identifies young and talented learners from grade 9 to 11 and encourages them to find innovative solutions to challenges of water and sanitation in the country.

The pair proved a formidable competition as they proved too much to their peers in the province, catapulting themselves on to the national stage where they competed with learners from across the country.

Captivating the adjudicators at the competition, the young innovation gymnasts proved they were equal with the best.

Their innovation, an Air Compressed Toilet, is designed to use 50% less water in the current toilet and uses compressed air to increase the velocity of the water, making it flush faster and doing so without requiring the use of more water.

Elated at the performance of the two learners, DWS's Gauteng Coordinator of the completion, Ms Shoky Malepe, said the learners had showcased some of the ground-breaking innovation in the water and sanitation sector.

She extolled the creativity of the learners from Protea Glen Secondary School for thoroughly thinking about the concept they had presented at the competition, adding that it was this kind serious of thinking that must into projects required by the water sector.

"The imagination that has been displayed by learners from Gauteng is indicative that young people are alive to the challenges facing the country and that they are thinking creatively to make sure they provided lasting solutions," said Ms Malepe excitedly.

Ms Ntando Ndwandwe, who is a teacher at the Protea Glen Secondary School, praised her learners for a job well done, saying their position three proved that they could compete with the best in the country.

She said: "Coming from a township school, we are acutely aware of shortages of resources. However, this did not dampen our spirits as we worked hard to ensure we employ our creativity and encourage the learners to think out of the box."



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One of the learners, Faith Kubayi, said they were humbled to have participated in the competition and to showcase what their solution was to the country, reiterating that as young people they must do everything to assist.

“All young people in the country must engage themselves in projects like this one. We must never let our country go down because young people are sitting idle and doing nothing. We must advocate for change because we are the change,” Faith said, appealing to young minds in the country to enter the exciting world of science.

**Hosia Sithole**