



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA ARTICLE

DWS motivates youth to pursue water and sanitation careers

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The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) is again ready to announce the winner of the South African Youth Water Prize (SAYWP), a competition aimed at encouraging the youth to be interested in the water and sanitation sector.

The SAYWP is a science and technology based project. The competition is an annual event and begins at provincial level and proceeds to the national level. Again this year since 1989, the winner will represent South Africa in the Stockholm Junior Water Prize (SJWP) in Stockholm, Sweden to compete against learners from 30 other countries.

Other objectives of the SAYWP are to promote the protection of South Africa's natural resources, to encourage and empower the youth to participate actively in integrated and community-based water resource management, to expose and enhance the interest of the youth in science and technology, to motivate the youth to pursue water and sanitation management careers, as well as to provide opportunities for the youth to interact with their peers in order to share knowledge and experiences related to water and the environment nationally and internationally.

The competition is open to high school learners from grades 9 and 10 not older than 20 years. The learners must be innovative and passionate about water and the environment and they must also have a special interest in the sciences and technology. Current studies in Mathematics and Science will be an added advantage.

Interested learners are required to identify problems related to water and sanitation in their schools or communities, such as pollution of water resources (i.e. dams and rivers), vandalism of communal taps, water wastage or water borne diseases. They need to demonstrate what actions they would take, for example initiate a project, do research and recommend solutions that would solve the identified problem.

There are two categories and learners can choose which one to participate in: invention of a product or awareness. In the invention category learners are expected to identify a problem, take action and then develop a technical model or invention that can be used to solve the problem identified. In the awareness category learners are expected to carry out a research project on the identified problem, take action to tackle the problem and recommend the solutions.

The Department of Water and Sanitation helps learners upon receipt of the entrants' registration forms by providing them with information which can be used for reference. The Department also supports the learners in the development of their projects. There is also a facebook page to facilitate interaction with entrants for those who are interested. The tentative date for the announcement of the winner is 4-5 June 2015.

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