



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Free State learner scoops SA Youth Water Prize award

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Judges had a tough time to decide who should be crowned the young water ambassador at the SA Youth Water Prize competition that was held in Pretoria last week.

In the end they settled at for 16-year-old Briaan-Lo Kemp of Jean Fouche Hoerskool in Bloemfontein, Free State, for his "Saving water drop for drop" project. He scooped the coveted award that will see him competing with students from 90 other countries in Sweden later this year.

He also won R11 000 cash, an allowance and a bursary to study water sciences or civil engineering at any of the 25 universities in South Africa.

The second prize of R7 000 was won by Abigail Murphy of George High School in the Western Cape, and the third prize of R5 500 went to Nondumiso Mkhize, Nolwazi Sithole and Nonduduzo Mbhele of Mehlokazulu High School in Pietermaritzburg, Natal Midlands.

During the trip to Sweden Kemp will join the Minister of Water and Sanitation, Nomvula Mokonyane, who will lead a South African delegation to the Stockholm Water Week to exchange ideas with international experts in water and sanitation issues.

Kemp won the prize after impressing the adjudicators with his "Saving water drop by drop" project which encourages South Africans to save water when taking a shower. The project is designed in such a way that when the cold water is opened during a shower, it is diverted to a tank for other use and the grey (used) water is diverted to another tank for irrigation.

The competition is an annual event that is organized by the Department of Water and Sanitation to encourage high school learners to design scientific water conservation projects. It is a science and technology collaboration between the department and the Stockholm Water Foundation in Sweden. The competition's objectives are to promote the protection of the country's natural resources and increase awareness amongst young people.

The programme also exposes and advances the interest of youth in science and technology, and motivates them to pursue water and sanitation careers. It targets Gr. 9-11 learners who identify problems related to water in their schools and communities, conduct research and come up with innovations recommended to solve the problems.

SAYWP responds to the scarce skills challenge and also serves as an incubator for the department's Learning Academy.

The department follows through with the learners who won the competition and also establishes partnerships with stakeholders for piloting the innovations.

South Africa has won the Stockholm competition twice in 2003 and 2005.

Kemp, who was accompanied by his mother to Pretoria, was excited about winning SAYWP award.



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"I'm excited about the award and look forward to the trip to Stockholm as well as my water and sanitation studies," Kemp said

End

By Themba Khumalo



Caption: The SA Youth Water Prize winners, Briaan-Lou Kemp (in a striped blazer), Abigail Murphy and Nondumiso Mkhize, Nolwazi Sithole and Nonduduzo Mbhele (seated)