



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
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INTERNET ARTICLE

Protea Glen Secondary School learners scoop first prize of Gauteng Provincial leg of SA Youth Water Prize

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Grade 11 learners from the Protea Glen Secondary School in Soweto took the coveted first prize at this year's Gauteng Provincial leg of the South African Youth Water Prize Competition which took place on Friday, 03 February 2019, at the Roodeplaat Training Centre in Pretoria.

The competition, which is the brainchild of the Department of Water and Sanitation, is in response to the chronic shortage of critical skills in the water sector. It seeks to identify talented learners from grade 9 to 11 who can provide innovative solutions to tackle water-related challenges in areas such as waste water treatment, water quality and water ecosystem, amongst others, in the areas where they live.

The competition further aims to inculcate an appreciation of science and technology while also encouraging the youth to pursue careers in the fields of water and sanitation.

By coming out victorious in the provincial competition, the Protea Glen Secondary School learners – Lebohang Manganyi and Ubuhlebethu Msimang – will move on to the national competition with the hopes of going on to represent the country at the Stockholm Junior Water Prize Competition in Sweden later this year.

Welcoming learners, teachers and assessors at the competition, DWS' Gauteng Coordinator of the completion, Ms Shoky Malepe, said the competition was a way of identifying young people who could provide solutions to water challenges in the country.

She said the Department, through the competition, sought to give exposure to young people and to tap into their innovations because they had useful ideas that could help the country to ameliorate the dire water situation the country was facing.

A grade 9 to 11 science teacher at the Protea Glen Secondary School, Ms Pelonomi Mooki, said she was happy about the competition because it allowed learners to showcase their talents and how creative they were in science.

She said even though they came from an under-resourced school, their learners were coming up with excellent ideas and encouraged other schools to participate in this competition, adding that the learners taking part in the competition could be tomorrow's innovators

One of the panel members, Mr Ronald Smit from Rand Water, expressed satisfaction at the type of presentations that were made by learners, saying there was still room for improvement. He said the learners need to take the feedback they got from the panel to heart and this could make a whole lot of difference going forward.

One of the two winning learners, Ubuhlebethu Msimang, said their experience was amazing because they got feedback on their presentation and hoped that one day they could be part of the Department as it works towards finding solutions in the water sector.

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