



## INTERNET ARTICLE

### **Sand River sub-catchment kickstarts Inkomati-Usuthu catchment management area Science Schools Competition**

26 February 2019

The Sand River sub-catchment kickstarted the 2019 science schools competition at Thulamahashe Stadium in Bushbuckridge on 25 February 2019. About 14 schools from the rural Bushbuckridge Local Municipality battled it out for the top three spots that ensure a ticket to the Provincial competition that will be held as part of the National Water Month celebrations in March.

The objective of the competition is to raise awareness in Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) and its role in the socio-economic development of the country. This is also intended to spark interest of learners in the field of science and engineering with specific focus on water science.

As part of the competition, schools are expected to develop a water purification model to treat 5 liters of raw water up to a drinking water standard. This also educates learners on cost and efforts invested in providing portable drinking water to households.

In his address, Mr Themba Khoza from the Department of Water and Sanitation encouraged the learners and educators to become water ambassadors in their schools and communities and encouraged them to join the Department and the water sector in its fight against water pollution as pollution negatively affects the quality of water and becomes costly to purify.

Malamule Secondary School from Edinburg walked out as the regional winners. They are joined by Magwagwaza Secondary who took position two and Magigwana Secondary who came out in third position to represent the subcatchment at the Provincial finals.

“I am so excited for the first prize. I really did not expect it due to the high competition. I don’t know what to say, I am basically lost for words. Through this competition, I have learnt that water purification is a long and expensive process therefore it is crucial to use the water wisely and never play with water. We prepared for the competition by visiting the Edinburg





## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



and Inyaka water treatment plants and we really learnt a lot about the process. Our educator assisted a lot as we did our practicals at the school and also practiced our presentation in front of a panel of educators, which really boosted our confidence. Lastly, I would like to advise our communities to take care of the water and conserve as much as possible as I have learned that our beautiful South Africa is a water scarce country”, said Luyanda Mhlongo, one of the winning learners from Malamule Secondary School.

**Themba Khoza**

