



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **Gauteng young Hack4Water winner deploys technological genius to save water**

18 April 2017

An 18-year old Atteridgeville matric learner, Moses Mhlwana, is a technological enthusiast who wears his heart on his sleeves concerning water wastage as the drought continues to tighten its grips in many parts of the country.

The young brain was recently at the bottom of the food chain at the Hack4Water Awards Ceremony in Durban after using his technological know-how to invent a water saving tank.

Moses's ingenious innovation was crowned top of the drawer in the youth research category, earning him the kudos of his peers and one-month of marketing visibility with Department of Water and Sanitation and R15 000 cash award from The Innovation Hub.

The Bokgoni Technical Secondary learner is doing Electrical Engineering at school which he credits for having had a great influence on his innovation.

Aware that challenges live chick-by-jowl with solutions, Moses identified the current water shortages facing the country as urgent and requiring immediate attention. His work of genius was the invention of the Smart Tank to which is an incisive response to the water wastage.

The Smart-Tank is an electronic tank that saves water by enabling water users to digitally select the amount of water they need and then it releases the exact amount of water required.

To mitigate the possibility of water wastage as a result of error, the tank is connected to garden tanks that receive spilled water to reduce water wastage.

Moses says the Smart Tank can also be used by famers because it has moisture sensors that detect whether the soil is dry or not and when it is dry it automatically waters the garden with the preferred amount of water.

He says he hopes his creation will have impact throughout, reiterating that his vision is to save as much water as possible so that the country takes its rightful place in the family of developing nations.

He says: "The innovation will help the country to save water and currently my team and I are working on ideas that can make south Africa a developed country."

Despite not getting enough time as he has to juggle his in Matric and working on his innovative ideas, Moses says he wants to be at the cutting edge of technology to conserve South Africa's limited water resources.

Moses says he hopes that in the near future he is able to get the support of the business community behind his idea, enabling him to secure the necessary investment and business partners.



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About his accolades at the Hack4Water Competition, the foresighted Moses says the award has motivated him a great deal, inspiring him to do more so that he can think out of the box and work closely with other youth in his community.

“Although we don't have any running projects to inspire the community yet, but we are willing to do one as soon as we get investors to start up our business,” added Moses.

**Hosia Sithole**