



## INTERNET ARTICLE

### **Team Mpumalanga comes third in Aqua Enduro competition**

14 December 2017

Six Grade 11 learners from schools around Mpumalanga achieved third position in the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the annual Aqua Enduro competition hosted by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) at the Kruger National Park from 03 to 08 December 2017. The learners who represented Mpumalanga are Thabiseng Mathonsi and Sipiwo Msibi from Mdzili Secondary School in Nkomazi Local Municipality, Simphiwe Malinga from Suikerland Secondary School also in Nkomazi Local Municipality, Samson Mashabane and Nompilo Nobela from Sitintile Secondary School in City of Mbombela, and Philani Dlamini from Inqubeko Secondary School in Mkhondo Local Municipality.

“I am excited that we managed to get position three as the competition was very tough. This has been the most exciting week in my life as I fully got to understand the water and sanitation environment. I learned a lot from the different people from different provinces and backgrounds. The information and experience I got will help me a lot in my life and I will share with my peers at home and school”, stated one of the learners, Sipiwo Msibi of Mdzili Secondary School in Nkomazi Local Municipality.

Aqua Enduro is one of the flagship programmes of the Department of Water and Sanitation aimed at addressing the skills shortage challenge in the scientific and engineering disciplines within the water sector. The Aqua Enduro competition is open to grade 11 learners studying Mathematics and Physical Science. Aqua Enduro forms part of the Department’s 2020 Vision for Water and Sanitation Education Programme and involves young people in mental and physical activities that test their intellectual capabilities and stamina while learning about the importance of water resource management. This year marks the tenth year of the programme which has seen about 147 learners receiving bursaries to fulfill their dreams in the scientific and engineering sphere.

The Acting Provincial Head for Mpumalanga, Mr Masala Mulaudzi congratulated the Mpumalanga team for their achievement. “Even though we did not defend our crown as national champions, the third position shows the talent and dedication we have as a province. You ensured that even though we lost the big trophy, we still go back home with a trophy for our cabinet. You are the best and keep working hard for a brighter future”, he said.



## water & sanitation

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The learners were exposed to the water sector in terms of water quality monitoring, water use efficiency, technical site visits to the water resources, water and waste water treatment plants to ensure that they understand the water and sanitation business. The learners also acquired important life skills such as team building and communications.

**Themba Khoza**