



INTERNET ARTICLE

Innovative learners vying to ensure access to safe water

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Learners from 18 schools in the Mpumalanga Province competed for the provincial crown during the National Water Week Science competition held at the Riverside Mall on Friday, 23 March 2018.

The competition, which forms part of the National Water Week celebrations, saw regional winners competing with their water purification and water conservation models for the coveted provincial prize.

The awareness competition is coordinated by Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) and the Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency (IUCMA) with other sector stakeholders such as Department of Education, Sappi, Rand Water, Sembcorp Silulumanzi, Manganese Metal Company and Dormehl Technologies.

Khaliphani Secondary School took first prize with their model and clean water, followed by Rev SA Nkosi Secondary School in second place and Sisukumile Secondary School in third position.

The objective of these competitions 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 entice learners into following careers that would be beneficial to the water sector, given the shortage of suitably qualified individuals in this field.

Water Sector Support Director Mr Patrick Ntabeni, encouraged the learners to play an active role in water conservation in their communities as South Africa is a water scarce country. "This competition talks to the theme of the National Water Week **"Access to safe water by 2030 – possible through nature"** as it promotes water purification to ensure safe water for the people of the country. In you we see engineers and scientists who will ensure that the people of our country enjoy a better life through clean and safe water", he said.



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Dr Mdluli from the Mpumalanga Department of Education encouraged the learners to learn from the experience and be better people. He further stated, “You are all winners here. Either you win or you learn. There are no losers here”.

Mr Mthembu, a board member of the IUCMA thanked all the stakeholders for a wonderful and progressive partnership. He further encouraged the learners to be good ambassadors of water conservation and the protection of the water resources in their communities.

Themba Khoza