



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Confirmation of South African representation at the Stockholm World Water Week

23 August 2018

The Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation, Honourable Pamela Tshwete, MP, will lead the South African delegation at the Stockholm World Water Week. This annual excursion is meant to proactively contribute to the mobilisation of resources for South Africa, Southern Africa and Africa to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targets on water and sanitation, namely SDG-6.

At the 2018 edition of this annual event the Deputy Minister will also demonstrate to the world how South Africa is managing the imbalances of the energy and water usage by both households and businesses.

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) coordinates the South African Youth Water Prize (SAYWP). The SAYWP is a science and technology based project and the competition begins at provincial level and then proceeds to the national level. The national winner represents South Africa in the Stockholm Junior Water Prize in Stockholm, to compete with learners from 30 countries.

This collaboration project with Sweden is aimed at encouraging active participation of youth in integrated water resource management. Grades 9 to 11 Maths and Science learners identify water or sanitation challenges in their schools or communities, and develop inventions or awareness projects to bring solutions. The project serves as an incubator for the Learning Academy, a Department of Water and Sanitation unit that manages bursaries.

Fifteen years ago the Minister of the then Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, Mr Ronnie Kasrils, accompanied the 2003 winner Claire Reid when she received the prize for a project that developed a so-called "Water Wise Reel Gardening" system. The system is meant to help farmers to be more efficient in their use of water in growing crops.

Claire invented a seed-planting system, whereby seeds are attached to newspaper strips, and this cuts down water usage by reducing water leakage into the soil. The paper strips keep seeds moist, so that they can germinate without wasting water.

In 2005 the then Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry, Ms. Buyelwa Sonjica, led the winning trio of Pontso Moletsane, Motebele Moshodi and Sechaba Ramabenyane who were awarded the top prize for developing a revolutionary system to cut water usage in small-scale irrigation.

In the spirit of the centenary year of Tata Nelson Mandela and Mama Albertina Sisulu the entire country will be holding thumbs (as the Swedish people refer to this act as "*haller tummarna*"), for the delegation led by Deputy Minister Tshwete and one Kwazi Zwezwe from Ixopo High School, in the KwaZulu-Natal Province.

Kwazi will represent South Africa in the Stockholm Junior Water Prize category with his project called the "Rainmaker". This invention uses a prototype as the main component to dehumidify air, causing it to condense into droplets of water by the use of a thermo-electric cooler. The concept of using air to produce water is not relatively new in the market; however



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existing systems are too expensive and complex, and thus cannot be implementable to a rural community or population at large.

South Africa will be holding thumbs for Team South Africa at the 2018 version of the Stockholm World Water Week. This will be in the spirit of “taking South Africa forward”.

ENDS

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