



MEDIA STATEMENT

DWS awards bursaries to winners of the South African Youth Water Prize competition

07 May 2019

The Department of Water and Sanitation (**DWS**) in North West has changed the lives of two (2) learners from ZM Seatlholo Secondary School for the better when they were awarded full bursaries to study any water-related courses at universities of their choice.

This good gesture is in line with the department's 2020 Vision for Water and Sanitation Education Programme. This programme is aimed at educating Grade 9-11 learners about efficient use of water and protection of water sources. The South African Youth Water Prize (**SAYWP**) competitions were hosted on Monday, 06 May 2019 at the University of the North West in Mahikeng.

The two learners, Onkabetse Olifant and Kgothallo Phake will receive laptops, prize money of R6000 and bursaries which will cover accommodation, books and pocket money from first year until they complete their studies. Thereafter they will also be in the employ of the Department for three years.

The learners from ZM Seatlholo Secondary School competed with their peers from nine schools across the province and obtained position one for designing a leaking tap indicator.

Onkabetse Olifant could not contain himself as the announcement was made and highlighted that there is a lot of water loss from leaking taps in Lotlhakane where they come from. As a result they decided to invent the leaking tap indicator project to address the situation.

"We saw a lot of taps in our village leaking and this caused discomfort to us because we understand the value of water. This made us realize that our village is contributing to the 37% of water lost through leaks causing the country to lose R7 billion per year.

"As a result, we came up with the leaking tap indicator which will assist to identify leaks and give a direct location of where the leak is located", said Onkabetse Olifant.

Addressing the learners during the competitions, Mr Peter Mogosetso, Project Manager for 2020 Vision for Water and Sanitation Education Programme in the North West, expressed his gratitude for teachers and officials who are dedicated to equipping youth with valuable information that they can armour themselves with into the future.

"Nothing is the limit for you, all you have to do is study hard to meet the requirement at any university and enrol for any water related course. Those of you who could not win today are encouraged to apply directly for bursaries at the department", said Mr Peter Mogosetso.

The **SAYWP** is one of the projects that the DWS is implementing in its education programme called 2020 Vision for Water Education Programme (2020 VWEP).



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Winners of the provincial competition will proceed to compete with their counter-parts nationally. The winners of the national competition will have an opportunity to compete internationally at the Stockholm Junior Water Prize in Sweden where they will test their abilities against winners from 35 countries.

This year's Provincial SAYWP competition winners are as follows:

1ST POSITION — ZM Seatlholo Secondary school

2ND POSITION — Batswana Secondary School

These learners and their school will receive a cash prize amounting to R5000.00

3RD POSITION — Kismet Secondary school

These learners and their school will receive a cash prize amounting to R4000.00

END

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