



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### MEDIA STATEMENT

#### **George High School shines during the African Youth Water over the weekend**

15 April 2019

Research, inquisitiveness and an interest in water sanitation issues were tested over the weekend as the South African Youth Water Prize Provincial Competition (SAYWP) got underway. Learners in Grade 11 from different schools battled it out for the first position during this competition hosted by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in the Western Cape at the DWS George Office on Saturday.

Learners from three schools, George High School, Knysna High School and Chris Hani High School were all competing under the theme “**Awareness and Sustainability of Water Resource Management**”. SAYWP gives learners an opportunity to identify water and sanitation related problem in their school or community (problems like water sources pollution, water borne diseases, water conservation and awareness, invasive alien species); conduct a research and present recommendable solutions to the problem.

George High School impressed the judges with their invention. Both Zirquinn Phillips and Reche Klaasen believe that they have a solution to water dripping from the air conditioners. The duo says their invention that captures and purifies water from the air conditioners will solve the school’s high water bill. “If every household, industries and schools can buy into our idea, we believe we have a solution to gallons of water dripping from our air conditioners throughout the year” said Phillips.

George High School entered in both awareness and invention. The first project won the school R6000 and an opportunity to represent the province during the national competition in Pretoria on 16-17 May. Winners from the National leg will join more than 27 countries in Stockholm, Sweden, during the Stockholm Junior Water Prize. Knysna High school took position two and George High School on the second project (awareness) scooped the third prize.

One judge, Nomfundo Zondi – also a former SAYWP contender – says there is a lot of research and commitment to the competition. “The quality of this year’s edition has improved and you can see that learners have done their research. Through this programme, we believe that we have solutions to our water challenges in the country” said Zondi.

SAYWP is a science and technology collaboration between the DWS and the Stockholm Junior Water Prize in Stockholm, Sweden. The objective of this competition is to promote the protection of the country’s natural resources and increase awareness amongst young people. This programme gives young aspiring scientists to compete under awareness, invention or intervention category.

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