



AVE: R 7204.74

Gauteng wins HIP2B²

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PUPILS had to navigate their way through tricky puzzles, maths and science problems and a series of Cape Town heritage sites in the high-energy Mark Shuttleworth HIP2B² iThink Challenge at the weekend.

Naledi Pandor, the Minister of Science and Technology, said she thought that the HIP2B² iTHINK Challenge was a great initiative. "Our future innovators need to be open to new ideas, ready to think fast and able to draw together a range of information to derive solutions to problems.

"These are the future researchers, inventors and problem solvers of South Africa," she said.

More than 10 000 pupils took part in the event. They tackled a variety of science- and maths-related tasks, riddles and problems in a similar style and format to the hit-television series, The Amazing Race. The three teams of four pupils each had to navigate their way through a series of heritage sites including Cape Town's famous Flower Market and Table Mountain. They did this based on cryptic clues and had to put their problem-solving abilities to the ultimate challenge.

In order to successfully make their way through the minefield of puzzling questions and tricky tasks, participants had to draw from their knowledge of maths, science and technology. Teams made use of Cape Town's popular Hop-On Hop-Off Sightseeing bus to traverse the city, equipped with iPad 2s to assist them in their quest for the coveted winning title. The winners were Waterkloof and Helpmekaar high schools in Gauteng.

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