

Grade 10s learn that science is hip

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HERE's a quick challenge. You've got two tubs of 2-litre ice-cream containers on a table in front of you. They're filled with water. You need to move the water from one tub to the next.

The rule is that you're not supposed to move the tubs when transferring the water. No spills. You also can't make a hole in the tubs.

At your disposal are kitchen sponges, masking tape, bandages and sheets of sandpaper, among other things.

This was the first of four challenges that more than 400 pupils had to solve at Moletane Secondary School in Soweto during the Innovation Challenge yesterday.

The challenge's last leg, organised by youth non-profit organisation HIP2B² and technology company 3M, saw Grade 10 pupils from more than 12 schools battle it out through four solution-finding tests for the top innovator spot.

HIP2B² general manager Cathryn Treasure said the



POSER:Abednigo Ubisi and Happy Motsepe, pupils from Ivory Park High School in Tembisa, compete in the HIP2B² Innovation Challenge.

PICTURE:
BOXER NGWENYA

Innovation Challenge had already been held in Durban and Cape Town, with the final Joburg leg in Soweto yesterday.

She said the aim of the contests was to inform pupils about innovation and how subjects like maths, science and technology can steer them towards being innovators.

"The information sessions are leading up to the finals of the HIP2B² 3M Young SA Innovator of the Year competition in October," she said.

To enter, they must work in pairs and identify a problem in their school, family or community. They must then think of an innovative way to solve this problem and explain the

technology, engineering, science and maths behind it.

From the entries, which are open to Grade 10 pupils and must be submitted by August 6, a panel of industry experts will select the five best prototypes.

So how did the winning team nail the water challenge? They figured it out within six minutes of the 15-minute deadline.

They took a sheet of sandpaper, rolled it into a pipe and covered it with tape. They then took sponges, soaked them in the water from the one tub and squeezed them into the top opening of the pipe, releasing the water into the other tub through the bottom of the pipe.