



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
31 October 2025

SAIP ANNOUNCES THE WINNERS OF THE 2025 SOUTH AFRICAN PHYSICS OLYMPIAD.

Pretoria, South Africa — The South African Institute of Physics (SAIP) is proud to announce the winners of the 2025 South African Physics Olympiad (SAPhO), recognising outstanding achievements of learners and schools across South Africa.

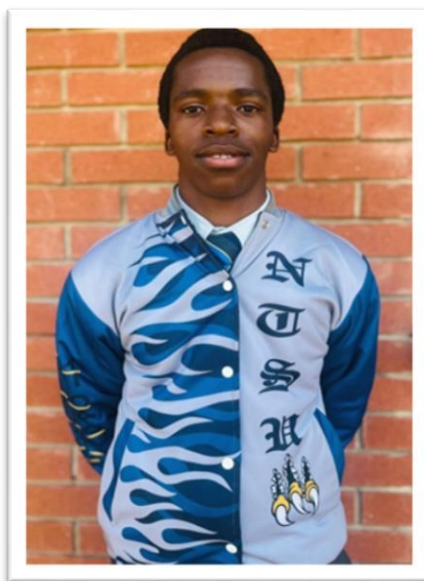
A total of 368 learners from over 200 secondary schools participated in SAPhO 2025, marking an increase from previous years. The Olympiad is administered as a hybrid examination, written both online and in person. For the first time in SAPhO history, an astronomy section was included in the Olympiad. Astronomy encourages critical thinking, problem-solving, and an appreciation of the universe, helping learners see the broader relevance of Physics beyond the classroom.

“South Africa, like every other country in the world, has amongst its youth a latent talent that needs to be identified, nurtured and monitored, to allow them to reach their full potential”, says Case Rijdsdijk, SAPhO Convener. “There are talent scouts for potential sportsmen and -women, why not for Mathematics and Sciences? After all our future lies in education and a technologically based economy. Identifying future scientists and engineers is essential and SAPhO is one pathway to success”.

Despite the challenges experienced nationally, the SAPhO 2025 results are most satisfactory, reflecting the dedication and perseverance of learners and educators alike.

GOLD AWARD WINNER

The top achiever of SAPhO 2025 is Mr. Bokamoso Pule, a Grade 12 learner from Ntsu Secondary School in the Free State. He receives the SAIP SAPhO Gold Medal, a Gold Certificate, and a cash prize of R2 500.



His teacher, Mrs. Matello Mzizi, proudly shared: *“Bokamoso has a passion for Physics, he has his own critical skills to solve Physics problems. He is a kind of learner who stays behind after the lesson and asks interesting questions based on Physics.”*

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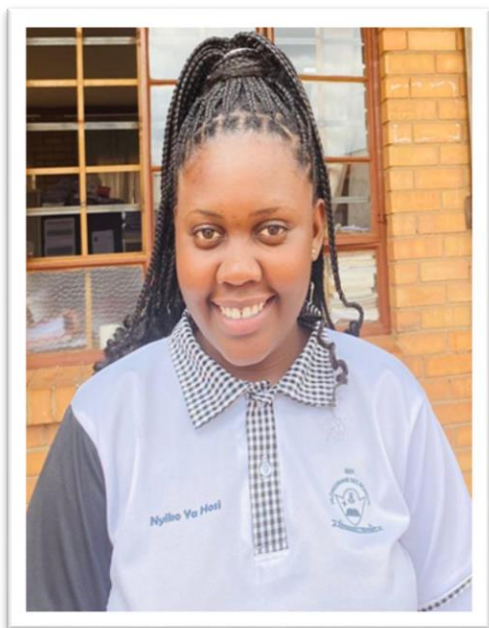
In his words, Bokamoso expressed:

"I am very thankful for the opportunity granted for participation in the Physics Olympiad which has challenged me and enhanced my scientific skills."

For the first time in SAPHO history, there are ties for both the Silver and Bronze Awards.

SILVER AWARD WINNERS

The Silver Award goes jointly to Ms. Betty Tinyiko Mhlala from Ben Hlongwane Secondary School (Limpopo) and Mr. Enamandla Matsepe from Kenilworth Secondary School (Gauteng). Each receives a Silver Certificate and R750.



Betty Tinyiko Mhlala

Betty reflects on her experience:

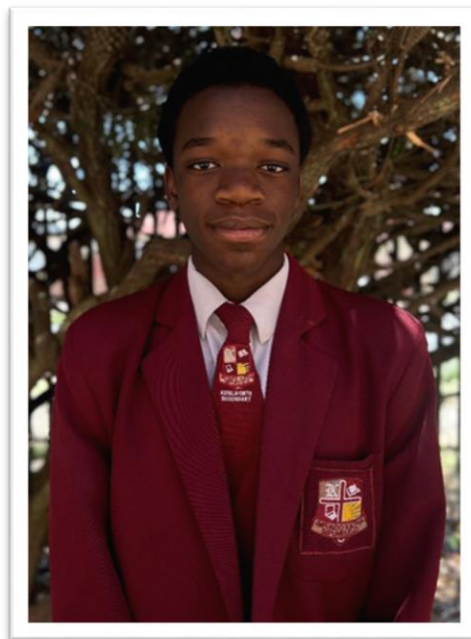
"I am so glad that I entered the competition. It was quite a bit challenging, yet I managed to overcome its difficulties. I really enjoyed being part of it and exploring the physics world. I am really grateful for the opportunity that I have been given to be in the spotlight in the physics world."

Her educator, Mr. Kutuana Lebogang Selby, commends her dedication:

"Betty is very passionate about physics. Her dedication to understanding the complexities of the physics world is radical. I am absolutely thrilled with what she has achieved, and it has given me great satisfaction."

Enamandla expresses his appreciation:

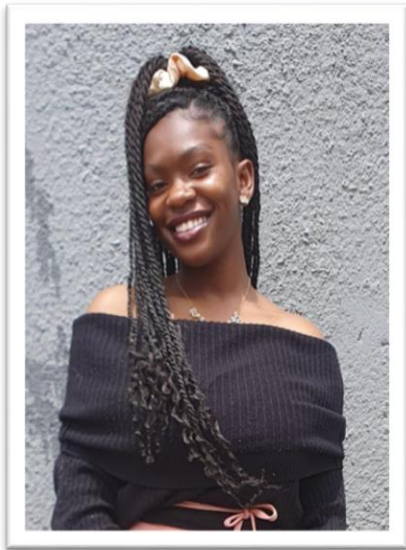
"I am honoured to have been given the chance to participate in the Olympiad. I would like to thank my Teacher (Mr. BN Makhanya) for his support because without him, I wouldn't have been knowledgeable to participate in the Olympiad. I want to extend my appreciation to the organizers of this Olympiad for hosting us. Truly, I have experienced what it means to be a scientist."



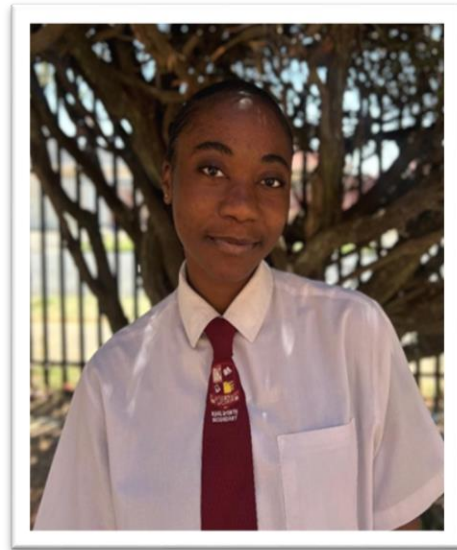
Enamandla Motsepe

BRONZE AWARD WINNERS

The Bronze Award goes jointly to Ms. Bettia Nginamau and Ms. Onyekwelu Divine, both from Kenilworth Secondary School (Gauteng). Each receives a Bronze Certificate and R500.



Ms. Onyekwelu Divine



Bettia Nginamau

Their teacher, Mr. Bonga Makhanya, congratulates them:

"I would like to congratulate each one of my learners for their outstanding performance and making me and the school proud. Their success reflects their hard work and the support that was provided to them by me and their families. I look forward to seeing the incredible things these young scientists will achieve in the future. Well done, team."

ADDITIONAL RECOGNITIONS

Learners who scored above 70% receive Distinction Certificates, between 69 and 60% receive Merit Certificates, while those who scored between 59% and 50% receive Honourable Mention Certificates. All remaining participants receive Participation Certificates in recognition of their commitment and effort.

Special recognition also goes to learners who excel in the astronomy section, developed in collaboration with the South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO). The Astronomy Gold Award is presented to Mr. Khathutshelo Patrick Tshidada who achieved a perfect 100%, and the Astronomy Silver Award to Mr. Omphulusa Mathoma, who scored 93% — both from Litshovhu Secondary School (Limpopo). Their prizes include telescopes, books, educational materials, and certificates of excellence. With a score of 90%, 11 learners tie for the Astronomy Bronze Award and receive certificates of achievement.



Mr. Khathutshelo Patrick Tshidada
SAPhO Astronomy Gold Winner 2024



Mr. Mathoma Omphulusa
SAPhO Silver Winner 2025

Ms. Duduzile Kubheka, Project Coordinator at SAAO, congratulates the learners:

“Though astronomy is not part of the curriculum, we know it is a topic that generates excitement amongst learners. We hope to inspire our learners and teachers with astronomy, and we remain ready to support schools around the country.”

The SAPHO Conveners, Dr. Paul Molefe and Mr. Mphiriseni Khwanda, express their gratitude to SAPHO Moderator, Mr. Case Rijdsdijk, SAIP Executive Officer, Dr. Brian Masara, and Project Manager, Ms. Ndanganeni Mahani, for their commitment and leadership. They also extend appreciation to Mr. Tebogo Mokhine from the SAIP Office for managing the online SAPHO platform.

ABOUT SAPHO AND SAIP

SAPHO is hosted by the South African Institute of Physics with the aim of recognising excellence in Physics in young South Africans in the hope that these students will continue to study Physics at tertiary institutions and Universities within South Africa. This is the only Physics Olympiad registered with ASTEMI Olympiads and Competitions in the country. ASTEMI is the Association of Science Technology Engineering Mathematics & Innovation that registers STEMI Olympiads & Competitions.

SAIP is the “Voice of Physics in South Africa”. It is a professional body registered with SAQA and recognises merit by assigning professional designations for physicists in a variety of disciplines ranging from Cosmology to Medical Physics. It has several goals, one of which is raising the awareness of Physics and its importance to our daily lives, much of which can be achieved through education. In summary, SAIP is working on improving physics education and research, developing and nurturing an inclusive next generation of physicists.

Prof. Eric Maluta, President of the SAIP, expresses heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributes to the annual success of SAPHO, and underscores the global significance of scientific advancement:

“The relevance of the basic sciences to address the intricate and complex challenges of our time continues to be recognised in the recent proclamation of the period 2024 to 2033 as the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (IDSSD) by the United Nations General Assembly. The SAIP will continue to champion the fundamental contributions physics makes through its support of research and education.”

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