



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **Graduate trainee wants to carve an image as a gem in the water sector**

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Civil engineering in the water sector is a religion that is preaching to the Department of Water and Sanitation's Graduate Trainee, Nhlanhla Dube. This makes him determined to engrave himself as a gem of its kind in the history books of the department.

Motivated by his uncle who is a civil engineer, Nhlanhla was unambiguous about his career path. With his post matric plans taking shape in his head, Nhlanhla followed in his uncle's footsteps to pursue his studies in civil engineering.

Nhlanhla says he struck gold while studying when he was recommended by the Tshwane University of Technology's Department of Civil Engineering for internship to join the department as an intern.

Now a candidate engineer, Nhlanhla says he is thoroughly pleased being part of a team of people in the department that are committed to make an indelible mark in the lives of the people.

Having had a taste of different aspects of civil engineering within the department, including design and hydrologic, he says he is a perfect fit in the construction.

"The whole of last year I was exposed to different aspects of civil engineering. This is where I had the opportunity to critically assess my strengths as to which aspect I would fit. Construction was therefore where I felt I can make an immense contribution and decided to follow it," says the energetic 24-year old.

The Johannesburg born Nhlanhla says he does not see himself being confined by anything but instead has dreams of climbing the ladder.

"Where I am currently is just a stepping stone. My vision is to see myself as a director in water sector support, profoundly contributing to making improving the lives of our communities," says the single-minded Nhlanhla about making it big in the water sector.

Nhlanhla says his exposure working with different municipalities in Gauteng has been a window through which he has been able to feel the pulse on the community.

He says: "Through our work in the department with different municipalities, I was able to interact with communities directly, listen to what they have to say and take up their issues with the relevant municipalities where we felt they were not taken seriously."

Nhlanhla says the department has put him in an especially unique position as he feels that as a young person he is backing up efforts to change the face of South Africa to make it a better country.

"When you work with communities you are motivated to deliver something good to them. Although one does not give them something in hand, but by taking and solving their water



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problems you are giving them something meaningful. For this, they will remember you forever,” concludes the foresighted Nhlanhla.

**Hosia Sithole**