



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **DWS spurs youth to aspire to become legend in the water sector**

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The Department of Water and Sanitation's (DWS's) Graduate Trainee, Dieter Jurgens Truter, wants to immortalize himself as one of the legends in civil engineering and he undoubtedly makes the cut for the water sector.

Dieter is a 25-year old from Pretoria who oozes zest for the water sector to the point of ditching his studies in Building Science just six months before competing it.

Now a civil engineering technician, Dieter tells of his love affair with water from a tender age of ten. His mother, Caren, who has been working for DWS for the past thirty years, has been a profound influence in his son's life.

After being encouraged by his mother to apply for a bursary from the department to study civil engineering, Dieter is now one of the young people who are throwing their weight behind the department's efforts to manage water resources.

Thanks to the support of the department's Learning Academy, Dieter is now plying his trade for the department, touching people from all walks of life in ways he could not have imagined.

A passionate, sincere and inspirational young engineer, Dieter revels in the diversity of opportunities offered by the department.

He says the department is practically nothing you can experience anywhere else in terms of experience, adding that in the department one can experience everything on all the categories of civil engineering.

"Basically in engineering there are three areas which include design, building and operational or maintenance and you get to experience not just one but all of them. This makes the department unique when compared to the private sector where you can only focus on one area," says Dieter swelling with pride.

Frustrated by a career that confined him to calculations, Dieter decided to close the door on Building Science and open another on civil engineering which he is now thoroughly enjoying.

Dieter says his chosen path is in harmony with the person he is, saying his dropping of Building Science for Civil Engineering was motivated by problem solving, flexibility and creativity associated with Civil Engineering.

A mind constantly on the drive for solutions to challenges of the day, Dieter says his passion is to act on his being innovative and creative, finding solutions to problems in the water sector.

Besides his mother's influence, Dieter who holds a diploma in Civil Engineering and now studying for a B.Tech with the Tshwane University of Technology, says the passion that he saw in the department's engineers who were worked with his mother rubbed off on him.



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Although he is currently attached to the Upper Vaal Catchment where he is dealing with water authorisations, Dieter love remains drawing and design.

“I am more at home and happy in drawing and design. I can plan something in my head and put it on paper and in most cases it ends up as something I can be proud of,” says the spirited Dieter.

**Hosia Sithole**