



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **Gauteng creative wins coveted award for hygienic and water saving revolution**

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The water sector is moving into the new era of technology with the innovation of a mobile hand washing facility.

The mo-Wash is a result of a Mamelodi-born creative mind Godfrey Sono and his business partner Sibusiso Vilakazi. Both these budding entrepreneurs are co-founders of Ebukhosi Properties.

During the United Nations World Water Day Summit and Expo that was held in Durban recently, his innovation was announced as the best in a Start-Up Researcher category. He walked away with a coveted prize of one month of marketing visibility with Department of Water Sanitation and a funding of R100 000 for pilot project, funded by The Innovation Hub.

Having seen public health risks associated with not washing hands or using unhygienic water to do so plus the shortage of water in the country, Sono toyed around with the idea of coming up with an innovation to encourage safe hand washing and to save water at the same time.

Once the idea had taken shape in his mind, Sono worked hard to refine it to deliver a flawless innovation, which is second to none in the realm of creativity.

The proud Sono said the mo-Wash was a mobile hand washer that provides access to hand washing facilities in townships, informal settlements, and rural areas where adequate sanitation is lacking and clean, running water was a challenge.

The Mo-Wash is a mobile unit that is a cost-effective solution to the challenge of maintaining hygiene at an outdoor function or event and requires no plumbing or drainage. Capable of being located anywhere, it uses a 12V battery for operation and is a standalone, fully automatic, portable mobile unit that rests on the floor.

It delivers a 10-second hand wash at the movement of a hand and does not require a foot pump. The mo-Wash is produced using the latest moulding techniques from high impact polyethylene, making it lighter and tougher than metal. The units are ideal for event organisers needing hygienic mobile hand washers for weddings, funerals, sports events, political rallies or civic events.

“We embrace engineering technology that drives social innovation and transforms people’s lives. Our product saves water and saves lives. Water wasted when washing hands is significantly higher where a manual tap is used. With mo-Wash, water is dispensed exactly when needed and shuts off automatically when hands are removed or outside the infrared sensing zone,” he said.

Sono added that the level of cross contamination when using a manual tap were significantly higher than mo-Wash.

The mo-Wash is streets ahead in terms of technology development as users do not have to touch the tap to get water.



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“Water is dispensed automatically using infrared sensor activation. With nothing to reach or touch, mo-Wash is more hygienic and promotes germ-free environment. With manual taps, germs and dirt are easily transferred from user to tap or vice versa,” he added.

Extolling the efficacy of his revolutionary product, Sono, who is an electrical engineer by training, said his team and their proven technological innovations help communities to live healthy lives and was passionate about education and especially health and hygiene education.

“We also intend training entrepreneurs and those that are unemployed on the use of our product thus helping them make a living from the business of renting out the units to various entities and maintaining them,” Sono said enthusiastically.

He said mo-Wash was currently offering rental units to clients seeking hygienic mobile hand washers for their events ranging from funerals, weddings, flea markets and so forth.

“Mo-Wash presents entrepreneurial opportunities for the unemployed, which can lead to micro-entrepreneurs being created. Young entrepreneurs are given the opportunity to run their own rental business,” he stressed.

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