



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **Innovators showcase creative solutions at DWS's Ministerial Interactive Session**

12 November 2018

Innovators attending the Ministerial Interactive Session at the Birchwood Hotel on Saturday, 10 November 2018, showcased their creative technologies which they believe could go a long way in plugging holes of lack of innovative solutions in the water and sanitation sector.

The innovators were part of about 450 stakeholders who attended the Interactive Session which followed a call by Minister of Water and Sanitation, Mr Gugile Nkwinti, for sector role-players to gather under one roof to work out solutions to problems in the sector.

One of the innovators, Mr Teboho Nchamo from Ilali Loo, which means a village in isiXhosa, showcased a water saving ceramic flushing toilet for un-serviced rural and peri-urban areas, which he said was aimed at a total eradication of pit latrines and bucket systems.

Mr Nchamo said their technology offered an appropriate response and intervention to sanitation challenges facing the urban and peri-urban communities which do not have sewer infrastructure.

He said that the technology was used only 1.5 litre water to flush, adding that it also used grey water and, or rain harvested water.

"This technology offers complete privacy for all and especially women. It restores dignity to the poor and is healthier and hygienic in the sense that there are no flies or larvae and is odourless," said Mr Nchamo.

Eco Latrines's Ms Henriette Vermaak, made an impression with her concept of a toilet unit which she said could be built outside and was easy to set up. She said the unit was waterless and worked with sawdust.

"What we do with the waste and sawdust is to put it through a bio-gas process as well as a composting process. We are more involved in the management of human waste, especially in the decentralised spaces for communities where they can then take responsibility for their sanitation," she said.

Ms Vermaak said their technology could create two value products – bio-gas and composting – that could contribute to uplifting communities as well as create employment.

Mr Tebogo Ntswane from EnviroSan Sanitation Solutions exhibited an easy flush toilet, which is low flush and could also be used as a pour flush. He said this technology was developed in conjunction with the Water Research Commission.

"This is a 2 litre flushing toilet which can be used in a rural setting, peri-urban and even urban settings because we have two variations which are plastic and ceramic toilets. For the rural market the pour flush is used because communities there do not have plumbed water and can use grey water to flush," Mr Ntswane said.



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The innovators said they were part of the exhibitors in the Interactive Session so that the technologies could be tapped into in finding sustainable solutions.

**Hosia Sithole**