



## INTERNET ARTICLE

### Young professionals pitch sanitation innovation to prevent pit latrine deaths

12 June 2023

A team of young professionals from the Department of Water and Sanitation pitched an innovative idea aimed to improve the provision of dignified sanitation facilities and prevent the loss of life using pit latrines in rural communities. The pitch took place during the CoCreateMyCity Conference hosted by the Netherlands Embassy in Durban on Thursday, 08 June 2023.

The CoCreateMyCity concept is a student competition where Dutch and local students co-create entrepreneurial solutions to local challenges. The students are supported by a selected group of experts and mentors, and during a final pitch competition they present their solutions in front of an expert jury.

Representing the Department, the team comprising of young professionals from the Department, Rand Water and the University of KwaZulu-Natal presented on an innovative idea which investigated ways to minimise pit latrine deaths, named the Larvae's Funnel Dry Sanitation System.

During a pitch which was timed for less than 2 minutes, Lufunu Munzhelele said the Larvae's Funnel Dry Sanitation System is a toilet which has a funnel-shaped seat which serve as a child safety proof.

"With the funnel-shaped toilet seat, this will help prevent children from falling in the toilet as we have seen in different parts of the country. The toilet also has two pits which are joined together for maintenance purposes and to prevent groundwater contamination," he said.

The day which was marked by different discussions aimed at finding lasting solutions in the water and sanitation sector, ended with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) by Rand Water and the World Water Academy which is aimed at strengthening skills development, training, and mentorship of young professionals in the sector.

The signing comes as the Department, on behalf of the South African Government, renewed an MoU for an additional four years with the Kingdom of the Netherlands earlier this year.

The MoU was officially signed by the Director-General, Dr Sean Phillips and Johan Oost, Wetskills Foundation Manager with obligations that include addressing skills gap in the water supply value chain and in technical areas within the water sector.

**WATER IS LIFE – SANITATION IS DIGNITY**

**SOUTH AFRICA IS A WATER-SCARCE COUNTRY**





## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



The Conference was also attended by Mozambique's Deputy Minister of Public Works, Housing and Water Resources, Cecilia Chamutota who has previously won a Wetskills Challenges. The challenge is a pressure-cooker programme for students and young professionals with a passion for water which is aimed at finding innovative solutions for water challenges in a changing world and environment.

**Lebogang Maseko**

**WATER IS LIFE – SANITATION IS DIGNITY**

**SOUTH AFRICA IS A WATER-SCARCE COUNTRY**



Department of Water and Sanitation South Africa



DWS\_RSA