



## INTERNET ARTICLE

### Young water professional participates in the 2019 Wetskills Water Challenge

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A young water professional, Itani Ndwambi (29) from the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has flown the South African flag high at the 2019 Wetskills Water Challenge that was held on 24 October- 07 November 2019, as part of the Amsterdam International Water Week (AIWW), in the Netherlands.

Originally from Tshivhulana Village in Vuwani, Limpopo, Ndwambi holds a four year professional degree in Hydrology from the University of Venda and a Master degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Ehime University, Japan. He is presently employed within the Directorate: Water Resource Planning System.

“My passion for water and working for the sector was unearthed when I was in Grade 11, Kolokoshani High School in Vuwani. My high school teacher motivated me to follow a career in the water sector. I gladly took the advice as I saw it as an opportunity for me to bring change with regards to lack of access to clean drinking water and sanitation in my rural community and South Africa at large,” he said.

Ndwambi added that his passion for water and sanitation field is fulfilling for him as it calls for “continuous learning and gaining of experiences as there is a lot to do in the field.

On his experience at the AIWW and Wetskills Water Challenge, he said he won a “My Water Story” movie challenge to participate in the Wetskills Water Challenge

The Wetskills Water Challenge is a two-weeks pressure-cooker programme for students and young professionals with a passion for water. Professionals participating in the challenge hail from all over the world, and work in trans-disciplinary and transcultural teams on challenging water cases.

“We worked as teams on different cases and our solutions were presented in the form of a poster and a 2 minute pitch. I also participated as a future water leader on Leading Utilities and a briefing session between Wetskills participants from the Southern Africa with the South African Water Sector, which was led by the DWS Director- General Mr Mbulelo Tshangana.

“It was a remarkable honour to have participated in the AIWW for 2019. I have learned a lot about new technologies and tools that can be used to solve water sector challenges. I also got to share my thoughts and experiences with regard to water, sanitation and climate at an international level,” he said.

Ndwambi is a registered PhD student at the University of Venda and his research project focuses on Evaluating the Water-Energy-Food Nexus approach, using an integrated resource management model and assessing climate change adaptation options for Vhembe District Municipality.

**Lebogang Maseko**