



INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS Candidate Engineer seeks water sector innovative ideas

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In a quest to explore new innovative means in the water sector, a young and highly creative South African named Masha Makgwale participated in the two weeks pressure cooker programme called Wetskills Water Challenge that occurred between the 25th of February and the 09th of March 2021 under the central theme; ***“valuing future water leaders, shaking the water-energy-food cocktail with their inclusive & catalytic capacity.”***

The 25 years old, born in Strydkraal A, Ga-Masha in Limpopo holds a BSc. Geography and Hydrology and BSc. Honours Hydrology both obtained at the University of Zululand.

Her pioneering work on the water sector encompasses working as Graduate Trainee at DWS from February 2017 to December 2019. Masha is currently a Candidate Engineer at the Department of Water and Sanitation.

Masha Makgwale is motivated by village children breaking barriers and limitations of poverty and prospering in the few opportunities that they get exposed to. “I feel very privileged to have taken part in the Wetskills Challenge, it means a lot to me to be given such an opportunity to use my skills and innovative ideas to tackle the challenges that we are facing in the water sector,” Masha said.

She added that one of the most exciting innovative ways she has learned through the Wetskills Challenge was utilising waste material to generate energy (biofuels). “The concept of using living organisms like microbes and bacteria to remove contaminants, pollutants and toxins from water and other environments,” stated Masha.

Sharing her views regarding changing weather patterns that threaten water security and livelihood of people across the globe, Masha indicated that climate change is here and is was opportune that young water professionals took it upon themselves to convene solutions. She further stated that: “We need to prepare ourselves and adopt new innovative ways of saving water. South Africa is a water scarce country and if we do not come up with solutions on how to sustainably manage our water now, we will suffer the consequences in the future. The fourth industrial revolution (4IR) is here now and we need to take advantage of it and come up with innovative solutions”.

Fhatuwani Tshikulumela





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Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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