



water & sanitation

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INTERNET ARTICLE

Reneilwe grabs the bull by its horns in a male dominated field

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A 24 year-old Tzaneen ambitious and driven young lady from a village in Tzaneen, Refilwe Malatji is a high flyer in the water sector, a direction she never anticipated her career path would take.

She now finds herself wearing her heart to her sleeve and making considerable impact in the male dominated field and making her mark. The Graduate Trainee stationed in the Western Cape Provincial Office has had to work very hard to pursue a career she never dreamed of but has grown to love and cherish overtime.

Narrating her journey that landed her to where she is now, the vivacious Reneilwe says it has been a roller coaster ride for her and she has credited her single mother for moulding her to be the person that she is now, after losing her father at a young age. She recalls how frustrated she was, looking at a bleak situation at home, not knowing how to make ends meet and who will cover her tuition fees after matriculating. This is when she considered taking a gap year.

"I discovered about the Department of Water and Sanitation competition called Aqua Eduro Bursary Competition and I entered and as fate would have it, I was offered the bursary by the Department and the rest is history", she enthused gracefully.

She says that was the light bulb for her as she was announced as one of the winners to study any water related career at any institution of higher learning in South Africa.

Reneilwe now holds Honours BSC in Geology and Masters Degree in Geographical Systems and Remote Sensing from Wits University.

Her current responsibilities include research, documenting, map generation and remote sensing.

"I will forver remain grateful to the Department of Water and Sanitation for having given me this opportunity and platform to serve the public and make my mark while at it. I would like to encourage young people to never lose hope and to grab any opportunity that presents itself and soar", she concluded.

Malusi Rayi