



water & sanitation

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Water and Sanitation
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Face to Face with Tebogo Diradingwe

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“My name is Tebogo Diradingwe, I was born and bred right here in the City of Roses. I love people and love seeing their lives change for the better because of the influence I have in their lives. I strongly believe in change because with change comes growth. I am married and have a beautiful daughter named Tehilla, meaning High Praise to God.”

Mr Diradingwe has been with the Department since February 2011. He was first appointed as a Network Controller from February to October 2011; from there he got appointed as a Senior IT Technician to date. He has also started acting as a Deputy Director for Regional Information Services and Support in the Free State since 2015 which he says has been a great learning experience.

His responsibilities range from First Line (end user) support to Management of Information Services in the Region. He is also responsible for training all Free State users and ensuring that they stay up to date with the changes in technology and familiarise them with new technology that can be used within their sphere of work. “I am also responsible for ensuring that our Region is complying in terms of IT Governance and IT security. I also ensure that all the backend platforms such as Network and data centre are running smoothly so that users can have access to information wherever and whenever they need it,” said Diradingwe.

“Technology without a specific environment is of no use; our department has an enormous mandate of being the custodian of water resources in South Africa,” he said. His role is to ensure that this mandate is achieved via effective, efficient and secure availability of information to all our users through an array of information systems in place. These systems are regulated with better, faster and cost effective controls in terms of good governance and best practices in Information Technology.

New technology triggers change and change stimulates growth thus introducing better ways of doing things is what he enjoys most about his job. “I think seeing people or users doing things in a much better way puts a smile on my face,” said Diradingwe. The part he likes the most is learning what other sections are doing within the Region and trying to come up with a technologically advanced way of doing their jobs easier. “I believe that there should not be a gap between private and public sector; in fact I think that with our client base, the public sector should be a trend setter when coming to technology,” He said.

As much as he embraces change and innovation, he finds that red tape and lengthy processes slow him down. “It’s often difficult to make people buy in to something new, especially when they don’t work with it directly,” he said.

Asked what advice he would give to those who want to be like him he replied; “My advice will be to love people and accept them with their flaws, be simple, embrace innovation, leave a mark and let your deeds echo to the unborn generations. After all, what you do for others remains long after you are gone”, he concluded.

Larry Crisp