



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS helped me to unlock my potential

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Although Bongani Jili had just completed his Honours in Hydrology, he was worried about adding to the statistics of the unemployed graduates in South Africa. However, his concern was short-lived after he received a letter from the Department of Water and Sanitation informing him that he had been accepted to the department's Learning Academy to study water sciences to develop his career.

The 28-year old from Mpophomeni in Natal Midlands grabbed the opportunity with both hands and has never looked back since.

Subsequently, he upgraded his qualifications with South African CNASP (Pr.Sci Nat) within the stipulated time. Eventually he was employed by the department as a Water Scientist in its North West Regional Office.

"The DWS call came to my rescue because I didn't know where I was going to get a job after completing my honours. The opportunity that DWS offered to me was a life changing opportunity but not for me only but for my family, my community and the whole of South Africa at large," says Jili.

The Learning Academy (LA) has over the years successfully managed to empower South African graduates and undergraduates. Many have gone on to make successful careers after participating in the Department of Water and Sanitation's programme as Learner Interns (LI's) who do experiential training, or become Graduate Trainees.

Jili is ambitious and is not content with being a Candidate Scientist. He still wants to study towards a B Tech in Water Engineering.

"I want to register for a Master of Science programme next year and share knowledge and skills that I have gained with my peers. The opportunity that I was given by the Learning Academy changed my life completely. DWS helped to realise my potential and to achieve my dreams. I managed to extend the house at home and also to help with the education of my younger sister who is still in high school.

Jili encouraged the youth not to give up on their dreams as one day opportunities will come their way

Thabang Molai