

Press Release: For Immediate Release

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Heading: **WRC AND eThekweni MUNICIPALITY PARTNER TO STRENGTHEN COLABORATION AROUND INNOVATIONS TO SOLVE CRITICAL CHALLENGES IN WATER AND SANITATION.**

The Water Research Commission (WRC) and eThekweni Municipality are launching a partnership agreement to strengthen water and sanitation research and innovation through strategic collaborations to enhance scale and testing of sustainable solutions needed in municipalities facing critical challenges in service delivery.

The two entities have signed a memorandum of understanding in this regard which guides the collaboration to facilitate research and innovation sharing, co-creation, piloting and upscaling of innovative technologies for improved access to water and sanitation for people in the country. One of the areas of co-operation will be around non-sewered sanitation systems (NSSS) which remains a critical challenge in informal, peri-urban and rural communities all across South Africa.



Photo: Dhesigen Naidoo, WRC CEO (left) and Mr. Ednick Msweli (right), Head of Water and Sanitation (eThekweni Municipality)

The Head of Water and Sanitation at eThekweni, Mr. Ednick Msweli says that eThekweni has a large indigent population requiring services and difficult settlement types and terrains. This partnership will facilitate access to new and innovative solutions that have been developed by the Water Research Commission and trialed through the WRC's innovation acceleration platforms such as the Water Technologies Demonstration Programme (WADER) and the South African Sanitation Technology Enterprise Programme (SASTEP). It will enable both parties to identify specific solutions for any particular challenge encountered by eThekweni and of mutual interest to both parties.

"The WRC strongly believes that innovation inclusive of technological, social and institutional innovations will lead South Africa towards a sustainable service delivery model and a sustainable future. It is exciting to collaborate with an entity that shares our vision of testing and upscaling sustainable innovations that address water and sanitation challenges and are willing to catalyze its commercialization and uptake for the benefit of all South Africans" said Mr. Dhesigen Naidoo, CEO of the Water Research Commission.

End.

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