

Press Release: For Immediate Release

Issued by: Water Research Commission

Date issued: 20 November 2020

Heading: **Launch of Clear recirculating toilet at Tsholetsega Primary School.**

**Krugersdorp On World Toilet Day**

In 2018, in response to challenges to school sanitation, the President Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa, highlighted and recommended the introduction of new innovative solutions to the school sanitation system which led to the Sanitation Appropriate for Education (SAFE) Initiative. The South African Sanitation Technology Enterprise Programme (SASTEP), a programme developed by the Water Research Commission in partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Department of Science and Innovation answered the call and partnered with the SAFE initiative (Sanitation Appropriate for Education) as an early adopter platform of innovative and sustainable sanitation solutions for schools. The partnership brings on board two key champions in the new sanitation journey viz: the Department of Basic Education and The Office of the Presidency. It aims to build consumer confidence in the technologies through testing and use, operation and maintenance services, technology and business readiness testing and gender intentionality into its implementation guidelines to advise future schools sanitation policy and implementation. The WRC, through SASTEP as a technology accelerator platform has adapted its model to work with South African companies and Global innovators interested in building a competitive edge in the off-grid sanitation market that services the rural, informal, and marginalized communities with the aim to enhance manufacturing, supply and industrialization in the country. Through this radical new sanitation industrialization path, the WRC and its partners are aiming to change the current unsustainable sanitation trajectory by decentralizing services and products, building new companies and creating jobs at local level.

The failing of current sanitation infrastructure is reflected in several incidents involving children falling into pit latrines at schools mostly in Limpopo, KwaZulu Natal and the Eastern Cape provinces. The need for safe, adequate, and hygienic sanitation facilities in schools cannot be understated. The SASTEP Programme has facilitated the transfer of the Clear Toilet Technology to a SASTEP commercial partner, Enviroloo, who has been licensed to commercialize and manufacture the system locally. This system is one of many of such innovative, next generation sanitation technologies the WRC will be

demonstrating and commercializing through the SASTEP platform and in partnership with south African sanitation entrepreneurs, SMME's and manufacturers.

The launch of the Clear recirculating toilet at Tsholetsega Primary School in Krugersdorp is a culmination of these efforts. It is also answering the call made by President Ramaphosa when he launched the Sanitation Appropriate for Education (SAFE) Initiative on August 14, 2018 with the mandate to "spare generations of young South Africans the indignity, discomfort and danger of using pit latrines and other unsafe facilities in our schools". The Clear full recycle toilet system is a unit that collects waste streams (including excreta, urine and flushing water) from a flushing toilet, treats the waste stream, recovers the water, disinfects the recovered water, stores it and uses it for flushing. The system has several benefits including promoting water conservancy, it allows for off-grid set-up, allows for waterborne sanitation in areas with little water supply, with little need for expensive civil construction and infrastructure with the job creation at the factory rather than extensively on-site.

*"The system installed at the Tsholetsega Primary School is performing excellently and preliminary results are very encouraging, and we believe that the technology has the potential to transform the landscape of the South African Sanitation industry" says the COO of Envirolloo. "We are grateful for the leadership of WRC and the SASTEP programme in providing this opportunity. The push for the commercialization and industrialization of appropriate sanitation technologies in the country is a positive step and has the potential to transform South Africa into a hub of sanitation manufacturing excellence on the African continent", he continues.*

The Head Principal at Tsholetsega Primary School, Mrs Rajuille, was overjoyed by the difference the toilet system has made at the school and enthusiastically broke into song at the CLEAR Toilet Launch this morning the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2020. The CEO of the Water Research Commission, Mr Dhesigen Naidoo was humbled by the kind words of all the partners and recipients at the school launch event stating that *"through innovative sanitation solutions we can change our peoples lives for the better while stimulating a new industry development path for off-grid sanitation products and services"*.

End.

**For media-related queries** please contact: Khosi Jonas | [khosij@wrc.org.za](mailto:khosij@wrc.org.za) | Tel: (012) 761-9300 or Sifiso Mazibuko | [Sifisom@wrc.org.za](mailto:Sifisom@wrc.org.za)  
**Facebook:** Water Research Commission  
**Twitter:** @WaterResearchSA  
**Website:** [wrc.org.za](http://wrc.org.za)

## **About SASTEP**

The South African Sanitation Technology Enterprise Programme (SASTEP) is a national system of innovation platform that seeks to fast-track the adoption of innovative and emerging sanitation technologies in South Africa through fostering local manufacturing and commercialization. The core strategy of the programme is to support and empower sanitation innovators (technology partners) and sanitation entrepreneurs (commercial partners). The SASTEP approach is hinged on the formation of collaborative partnership with sanitation innovators and entrepreneurs to ensure the translation of suitable and appropriate sanitation technologies to the marketplace.

The programme was created by the Water Research Commission (WRC) in partnership with the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI), and the Bill and Melinda Foundation (BMGF) and with the support of the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS).