



## School Sanitation Colloquium

**Date:** 5 June 2024

**Time:** 9:00 – 15:30

**Venue:** Pretoria

### BACKGROUND

School sanitation has emerged as a “wicked problem” plaguing South Africa and leading to a number of learner fatalities in schools. Many schools in South Africa do not have reliable access to water, and learners are still using unlawful and unsafe pit toilets. Although the Department of Basic Education (DBE) have spent multi-million of Rands for the provision of emergency water and sanitation infrastructure, these important interventions have been expensive and often did not meet sustainability- or safety targets. When considering the impacts of climate change and budget constraints, compounded by increased water scarcity and drought, it is likely that school sanitation infrastructure will be subject to even more challenges, and that sustainable long-term solutions are urgently needed.

The Water Research Commission (WRC) is taking a research/learning lens to convene a colloquium that brings together various stakeholders to a forum to engage and discuss the state of school sanitation. It is important to understand the idiosyncratic elements driving the status quo and propose implementable interventions that can foster an enabling ecosystem that promotes best practices across the SA school sanitation value-chain. This will include promoting research outputs from the WRC-NGS school sanitation toolbox and other work that add to the conversation and promote safe, hygienic, and dignified school sanitation service delivery. The colloquium output will be a position paper that outlines the main challenges, solutions proposed, and collective way forward.

### OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this workshop will be to engage and discuss the state of school sanitation i.t.o.:

- a) Understanding policies, regulation, norms and standards in term of policy shortcomings, the need for a separate chapter in school sanitation policies, incentive based regulation and limitations in norms and standards (what needs to change & how do we change it) that deter/enable effective school sanitation systems in SA.

- b) Understanding the critical aspects of User acceptance aspects i.t.o. social, behaviour, gender intentionality, what makes systems comparable and how do we change minds to accept NGS in schools.
- c) Providing an overview of NGS technology i.t.o.: What is available & why we use it, Benefits and shortcomings, Demand analysis outcomes re ablution facilities regarding Top-structure / Housing options, Front-end options ("the visible toilet type"), Back-end options (wastewater treatment & management) and NGS options and how does it fit in with the above. Included and ancillary to this is the opportunity for exhibitors to showcase innovative sanitation categories & technologies e.g. full recycling toilet systems, low flush toilets. (models of the technologies and not prototypes),
- d) Providing an overview /summary of work by the WRC-NGS project that includes-SASTEP demo beneficiaries e.g., principals, school SGB etc., to offer their insight and voice on next generation technologies demonstrated in their respective schools, thereby providing their view on the appropriateness of the installed technology.
- e) Understanding the different Contractual models with regard to: What makes for an effective Implementing agent, contract concepts are critical, contract management style & KPIs that are effective and necessary, Critical aspects relating to Construction, supervision & Managing non-performance (on-site, reporting) & Social criteria to be achieved at or before close-out, Defects liability period and inspections (i.t.o. managing for technology & social sustainability, not just material & construction defects review).
- f) Understanding the different O&M models and making NGS central to the decision-making for the selection of new toilets.
- g) Understanding the different Roles and responsibilities i.t.o. the lifecycle of a toilet, Who is responsible for what and Who pays for what, Monitoring progress or digress. Likewise, further understanding regarding International funding of NGS to South Africa in relation to who pays for pilots & what is feasible pilot projects periods, Monitoring progress or digress.
- h) Understanding Sanitation costs and benchmarks.
- i) Proposing implementable interventions that can foster an enabling ecosystem that promotes best practices across the SA school sanitation value-chain. This will include promoting research outputs from the WRC-NGS school sanitation toolbox and other work that add to the conversation and promote safe, hygienic, and dignified school sanitation service delivery.

## PROGRAMME

*Chairperson: WRC or Professional Person to facilitate*

PROGRAMME			
Registration	8h00 – 9h00		
PLENARY SESSION			
Welcome	9h00-9h30	Dr Jennifer Molwantwa / Prof Stanley (Chief Executive Officer, Water Research Commission)	WRC and SASTEP involvement. School sanitation – be connected, be informed, be part of the solution.
Knowledge Sharing Session	9h30-9h45	DBE National Ms Tsholofelo Diale	Next generation sanitation for the Next Generation - DBE plans to overcome school sanitation challenges and opportunities presented by innovation.
Setting the scene	09h45 – 10h30	Dr Valerie Naidoo	Setting the scene: National perspectives regarding theory vs actuality (policy, funding, accountability, performance problems) Why is a stronger focus on NGS waterless & alternative toilets needed
Tea break	10h30 – 11h00		
Session 1: The social impacts of poor sanitation  Chair: Dr Marlene van der Merwe	11h00 – 12h30	Panel: - Section 27 - SGB - Principals & kids - Technical	Presentation: state of school sanitation Key challenges in social, cultural, and economic realities facing learners Mr Gary Quiling
Networking lunch & demonstrations	12h30 – 13h30		
Session 2: Technical & financial  Chair: Dr Valerie Naidoo	13h30 – 14h30	Panel - Bosch, Innovative technologies - Net Present Value - Mark La Trobe - costing perspective - DBE/ eThekwini/ Mvula - UKZN - PID	Key challenges in the technical and financial environment that present barriers to NGS uptake. Sustainable financing of school sanitation operation and maintenance – the role of private sector involvement, branding and model options Water Group
Break	14h30 – 14h45		
Session 3: : Policy & regulation  Chair: Shanna Nienaber/Jay Bhagwan	14h45 – 15h45	Panel -Prof Bongani Ncube - UKZN - DBE, - DWS	Key challenges in policy & regulatory environment. Provincial perspectives in school sanitation, norms and standards, roles and responsibilities Water Group
Closing comments	15h45 – 16h10	Closing comments by Dr Jennifer Molwantwa, Chief Executive Officer, Water Research Commission.	