

Engineering student develops solution to CT water crisis

Nkosinathi Nkomo, a civil engineering student at the University of Cape Town has come up with a solution to the water crisis in Cape Town. After being unable to register in 2017 due to lack of funds, he decided to apply some of the knowledge he had acquired practically to turn his problem into an opportunity. Nkomo developed a greywater system which can be used in South African homes and places of business.



He later formed a company, AquaRenu, and called in friends to assist. Sesethu Mazangazanga, a fourth-year civil engineering student, is the project manager; Njabule Gule, who is working and studying business part-time, is responsible for operations; and Monica Masetola, a final-year student at Vega, does branding and marketing for the company.

Nkomo said: "I work with a team that is passionate to be part of the solution and is always willing to give a hand to provide South Africa with new solutions to the water issue."

Goal of making water-saving solutions affordable

AquaRenu's vision is to become a nationally recognised brand and to have their products a standard feature in typical South African homes. "We want to make the greywater and rainwater harvesting systems affordable for the average South African household while delivering a service that is comparable to other expensive manufactures," Nkomo said.

Mazangazanga added: "The area we currently specialise in is greywater irrigation, and part of our near future design is

harvesting rainwater to reduce water consumption in homes and businesses even further.”

The students are currently working on a design that utilises rainwater and greywater as primary sources of water for irrigation and toilet flushing for large properties such as schools and complexes. This design, coupled with their old greywater unit would reduce consumption by up to 80% per month.

AquaRenu is currently working with contractors in Mpumalanga and installing their greywater units in some of the local schools in the area. To date, their clients have been homeowners in Cape Town and Johannesburg.

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