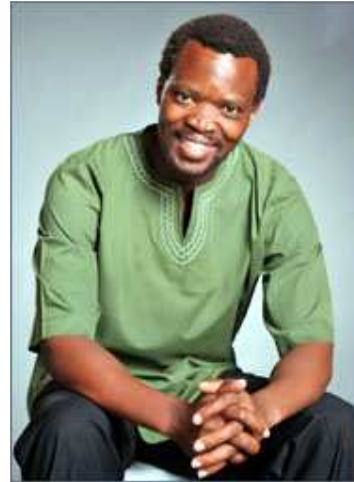


General news

CSIR appoints chief information officer

Matching the needs of people with appropriate mechanisms is a main focus of Joel Ramatlhape (41), the CSIR's new Chief Information Officer (CIO). And this motivates most of what he undertakes - be it looking at information and communications technology (ICT), governance issues or helping people improve their skills.



Ramatlhape came to the CSIR towards the end of 2007 from the Government Employees Pension Fund, where he also held the position of CIO. Previous experience includes being information and knowledge management analyst at the National Prosecuting Authority and part-time lecturer at the Wits Graduate School of Public and Development Management.

When asked to single out a specific career highlight, Ramatlhape mentions his involvement in the Joint Universities Public Management Educational Trust (JUPMET). This trust was established by the six schools of governance in South Africa to improve the quality of education and training in the field of public management and development. JUPMET represents the universities of Durban-Westville, Fort Hare, Pretoria, Stellenbosch, the Western Cape and the Witwatersrand. The training programme, 'Managing ICT in the public sector', was funded jointly by the South African Management Development Institute and the European Union.

At the CSIR, Ramatlhape will be responsible for aligning ICT strategy with organisational strategy. He will amalgamate resources to form the CSIR's ICT services unit in the immediate term and in the long term he will be responsible for ICT governance and improving ICT infrastructure and services.

He holds a BSc Hons (applied mathematics) from the University of the Witwatersrand and is currently registered for an MSc (computational applied mathematics) at Unisa.