



INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS offers aMandebele-ba-Lebelo Traditional Council communities health and hygiene lessons

05 December 2017

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) believes that its annual World Toilet Day campaign can reduce the number of children dying annually due to illnesses related to poor hygiene and lack of proper sanitation facilities.

Statistics indicate that over 1.5 million children die every year due to diarrhoea and other related diseases. The World Toilet Day campaign runs through the month of November and it's aimed at raising global awareness on the importance of sanitation infrastructure.

The DWS, in partnership with the Department of Health (DoH) and the City of Tshwane, recently embarked on a health and hygiene education and awareness drive to educate the residents of Amandebele-ba-Lebelo Traditional Council in Hammanskraal.

The interactive door-to-door education and awareness campaign exposed the residents of Amandebele-ba-Lebelo Traditional Council to the importance of having toilets; how to take care of toilets and how to minimise the spread of diseases through proper hands washing, and how to break the cycle of these diseases.

The campaign started with a health and hygiene training for Community Development Workers (CDWs) and Water and Sanitation Forum members. The team (consisting of officials from DWS, DoH, trainees and Amandebele-ba-Lebelo Traditional Council members) also visited over 100 households.

Speaking on behalf of the Traditional Council, Mr Kaleb Swandle express the appreciation to the department for having chosen their community to be amongst the recipients of the health and hygiene gospel.

"We are happy to welcome you in our community, we are grateful for the knowledge and information you have come to share with us. We will take it in a positive light for the betterment of our communities", he said.

Maria Molepo a resident from Suurman welcomed the team to her house. After the engagement, she was excited about starting a healthy lifestyle and she vowed, "from today onwards, I will always wash my hands with soap after coughing, sneezing, blowing my nose and every once and again".

Mr Calvin Makumbane from DWS advised the parents to practice good health and hygiene at home to help stop the spread of diseases.

"Children cannot continue dying of diseases that can be prevented, such as cholera and diarrhoea. It's time for parents and caregivers to start taking the health and hygiene issues seriously", Makumbane said.

Lucky Makgarengi