



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Learners advised to live a healthy life

25 May 2017

As May was declared as Sanitation Month by the Department of Water and Sanitation, the sanitation unit held a number of awareness campaigns around the province to mark the celebration thereof. Yesterday, the department together with the Department of Health, Department of Education and Amathole District Municipality (ADM) gathered at Lota Junior Secondary School to celebrate the right to access sanitation and promote good health and hygiene.

The principal Mr. Zama Mqolo while presenting the profile of the school mentioned that it's over 60 years old but he is not sure exactly about the number of years. "Education is a societal matter therefore, society must play a pivotal role to improve the level of teaching in our schools", said Mqolo

Mr Khumbolo Funyufunyu from ADM presented a proper toilet structure and requirements thereof. "Firstly, it must be enclosed. Secondly, the seat should have a lid that can be closed properly. Thirdly, there must be a pipe for ventilation with a net at the top to prevent flies coming in and going out spreading diseases", advised Funyufunyu.

The learners were encouraged to wash their hands before preparing or eating food. When Nomsa Sangqu, from the Department of Health in ADM, was asked to clarify the correct bleach to pour in water as part of the water purification process, she replied by saying that any bleach could be used but it should not have soap within it. "We should live healthy and protect our water resources because when we don't have water in our taps, we go to streams and rivers in search of water. You can pour 1 spoon of bleach in a 20l bucket full of water and leave it for a day or over night because it will be ready to use the next day", reiterated Sangqu.

Ms Thandiwe Gladile from the Department of Water and Sanitation demonstrated the 8 steps of washing hands in a proper or correct manner. Before her demonstration, she first asked one of the learners to show the audience what she does when washing her hands. "If you do not have a towel to dry your hands, you simply shake them until they dry up", advised Gladile.

The learners and the audience at large were reminded that the Department of Water and Sanitation was at their school in March 2017 to educate them about water conservation and water demand management. "However, as the Department of Water and Sanitation we don't service schools hence we involved the Department of Education so that they can intervene because it's part of their mandate to ensure that schools have sanitation facilities", clarified Siyasanga Garane.

Thandile Ngcume