



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Tshwane residents walk against leaking taps and aging infrastructure

27 March 2017

Throngs of people from all walks of life participated in a Walk for Water campaign in Mamelodi on Friday, 24 March 2017 to highlight the problem of water wastage as a result of leaking taps and aging infrastructure.

The Walk for Water campaign follows hot on the heels of the lifting of restrictions in Gauteng.

The overarching message of the walk was to rally the community behind the message of water security and to get everybody involved in managing this depleting resource.

Led by the Walter Sisulu Environmental Centre (WSEC) and the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), the 3km walk was joined by various other like-minded groups such as learners from local schools, Rand Water, City of Tshwane, Adopt Moreletaspruit Forum, Umkariso Women in Water and Capital City Business.

The participants in the walk went from street to streets, waving placards and chanting water saving slogans. Some of the posters were emblazoned with messages like: "Save water, save life", "Do not pollute our water resources", and "Use a bucket when washing your car".

As part of the walk, the youth of Mamelodi and the broader Moreleta-Pienaars community handed over a memorandum to the City of Tshwane MMC for Infrastructure, Darryl Moss, who on the day represented Tshwane Mayor Solly Msimanga. The memorandum contained detailed concerns from the residents regarding the abuse of water resources in the township.

Addressing the residents, Moss encouraged the public to continue using water wisely. He indicated that the City of Tshwane uses about 800 million litres every year and 20% of this water is wasted in the distribution process.

"I am happy to see Mamelodi residents taking part in water saving initiatives and acquiring more knowledge about the importance of water. Indeed, water has no substitute and we are taking serious steps to solve all issues raised in your memorandum," said Moss.

He admitted that the city was experiencing challenges regarding the turn-around time to attend to reported leaks due to insufficient plumbers.

"We are supposed to repair 70% of water leaks within 24 hours. We are currently repairing 40% within 72 hours because we don't have enough plumbers. I would like to encourage the youth with technical skills to consider going into plumbing, we are desperately in need of plumbers in the city," Moss added.

The City of Tshwane needs 100 plumbing teams to be able to fix water leaks on time and currently the metro only has 50 teams.

Moss said the process to employ plumbers and plumbing teams was underway and soon the city would be able to speed-up repairs.



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“Plans to replace aging asbestos pipes that were put up about 50 years ago are also in place, all the asbestos pipes in the systems are earmarked for replacement between 2017 and 2018. This year (2017), R13 million rands has been allocated and another R200 million in 2018,” Moss concluded.

Lucky Makgarengi