



water & sanitation

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INTERNET ARTICLE

Alexandra community encouraged to use water wisely

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Alexandra is one of the oldest townships in Gauteng with high water losses and the Jukskei River is constantly suffering from pollution by the residents leading to the loss of aquatic livestock.

The Department of Water and Sanitation Gauteng Provincial Office in partnership with Johannesburg City Parks recently held the public education awareness campaign at Maputo Park in West Bank in celebration of the Water Month. The campaign was held under the theme **“Water has no Substitute”**.

The campaign has attracted several stakeholders including Rand Water, City of Johannesburg, Pick It Up and Shomang Phaphamang Development Initiative just to mention a few. All the stakeholders’ set-up mobile service stands at the park and engaged the community around issues of water conservation, and water pollution.

Over 1000 community members and 120 learners from 5 schools around West Bank area were part of the campaign. Residents were advised to use water wisely, fix leaking tap at their houses, and report burst pipes to the municipality.

A Grade 7 pupil from Bovet Primary School, Shaly Mawila was inspired and could not wait to take the water conservation messages home to share with parents, siblings and friends.

“I am very excited to be here today, I have learnt a lot about the importance of water. From today on, I will be able to advise my friends when I see them wasting water,” said Mawila.

During her address, the Local Ward Councilor’s representative Ms Phumzile Sithole commended the initiative and urged the community to continue using water wisely to avoid a situation where the country would have enough water for the future generation.

“The issues of water wastage and pollution are very serious concerns in our community and we hope that initiatives like these will make people realize the importance of water conservation”, added Sithole.

A group of women from Shomang Sebenzani Development Initiative a cooperatives that adopted Jukskei River was also part of the event. The group cleans the river Monday to Friday, collecting waste from the river and river banks for recycling and gardening uses. They also do door to door awareness campaigns on the Households that are located next to the river.

Lucky Makgarengi