



INTERNET ARTICLE

Community of Mamello taught about the importance of washing hands

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A lot of people regard washing of hands as optional, while some view it as a luxury activity. The community of Mamello, outside Vaal Marina under Midvaal Local Municipality was not different; as they also viewed handwashing as not important. But after attending the Global Handwashing Day Campaign their attitudes had changed completely, they now appreciate the importance of washing hands with soap at all critical times.

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS's) Global Hand Washing Day Campaign held on 24-26 October 2017 around the Vaal Marine community attracted a lot people, young and old who described that campaign as helpful towards improving and promoting hygiene and healthy lifestyles.

The campaign kicked off with the officials demonstrating proper hand washing with soap to Primary and High school learners and also taught them about the six steps of hand washing.

"Children are good carriers of the messages, we are confident that as we educate them we are educating the nation", said Lungile Zulu from DWS.

The officials also took the campaign to another level by engaging the entire community at the Mamello Community Hall.

Ms Marousi Mzondi from the National Department of Health pointed out that it is important to wash hands at all critical times:

- Before eating or handling food;
- After using the toilet;
- Before feeding a baby;
- After changing a baby nappy;
- and every time after coughing, sneezing, scratching yourself and handling pets

Speaking on behalf of DWS, National Sanitation Co-ordinator, Ms Nonceba Sineke pledged with the people to take hand washing seriously saying that it might look small but the impact is huge, in some instances it cost people lives.

"Sometimes you just wake up not feeling too well; when you go to the doctor you are diagnosed with diarrhoea because of ignoring the importance of washing hands," said Ms Sineke.

Lucky Makgarengi