



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Departments join hands to fight the battle against preventive diseases

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The health and hygiene event held on 19 October at Sebokeng Hospital was a carnival of ideas as experts from the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Department of Health and Emfuleni Local Municipality discussed the basic steps and ideas to prevent the spread of diseases.

The event which was held under the theme, "Reduce the burden of diseases through proper hygiene practice", was the aftermath of the annual Global Handwashing Day celebrated on 15 October.

Speaking during the event, Sebokeng Hospital's National Co-standards Co-ordinator, Mrs Khathazile Phakoa pointed out that the world is under siege from a number of epidemics and diseases, some of which can be prevented by basic means of washing hands and eating healthy.

"As a country we are faced with the challenge of quadruple diseases that are taking a huge stake from our budget. Today we are gathered here to learn how as health-care workers and communities we can prevent or treat these diseases using basic simple steps," said Mrs Phakoa.

She also indicated that their institution (Sebokeng Hospital) is committed and support initiatives related to the implementation of preventative measures which are aimed towards the prevention of illnesses and diseases and building healthy communities.

The DWS's National Sanitation Co-ordinator, Ms Nonceba Sineke re-iterated the importance of washing hands at critical times citing the World Health Organisation's (WHO's) reports that are saying every hour there are five kids dying of diarrhoea.

"This is probably because mothers or care-givers forget to wash their hands before feeding the children", said Nonceba.

She indicated that it is for this reason that the DWS has dedicated the month of October towards encouraging people to wash hands with soap in order to reduce childhood mortality rates and other related diseases such as diarrhea.

Ms Lindiwe Ledwaba, a Professional Nurse at Sebokeng Hospital commended the event and described it as very insightful.

"Issues of health and hygiene are very serious we need to constantly talk about until if we are serious about reducing the number of sicknesses that attacks us on a daily basis", added Ledwaba.

Lucky Makgarengi