



## **INTERNET Article**

### **Global Hand Washing Day Celebrated in the Northern Cape**

**26 October 2017**

The Department of Water and Sanitation's Northern Cape region, in partnership with various schools and communities in the province, embarked on a hand washing campaign to celebrate Global Hand Washing Day (GHWD).

According to the Global Hand Washing Campaign Coordinator in the Northern Cape, Gavin January, communities need to inculcate the culture of washing their hands after using a toilet and before eating.

"We believe that charity begins at home. Therefore, we launched the hand washing campaign at our offices where we educated the staff on the importance of washing hands and how to wash them properly with soap. We also handed out soap to everyone to encourage our colleagues to use it purposefully", he said.

The campaign then proceeded to DuToitspan Primary School in Kimberley, where soap was also handed over to learners and some placed in toilets. These activities were then followed by public demonstrations of washing hands with soap.

Other communities that also benefited from the campaign include Badihile, Danielkuil, Groen-Water, Warrenton, Vlugfontein and Victoria Wes".

According to research done by the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, if everyone routinely washed their hands, a million deaths a year could be prevented. It is also estimated that washing hands with soap and water could reduce diarrhoeal disease associated deaths by up to 50%.



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

The Department of Water and Sanitation launched the GHWD from the 13 October 2017 and it is expected to end on 30 October 2017.

Global Hand Washing Day is celebrated annually on 15 October, with the purpose to create awareness about the importance of hand washing with soap to prevent diseases, and to save lives.

**By Amogelang Moholoeng**