



## INTERNET ARTICLE

### Officials give learners an essential lesson on washing of hands

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In a country where deaths associated with poor hygiene are on the rise every day, claiming the lives of over a million children each year. Education about poor hygiene related diseases and the emphasis on washing of hands with soap was the order of the day at Lebelo Primary School in Hammanskraal during the Global Handwashing Day event held recently.

As the globe celebrated the annual Global Handwashing Day on 15 October, much focus is being placed at the early childhood education to educate and encourage them to always wash their hands with soap in order to reduce childhood mortality rates.

The theme for this year' Global Handwashing Day is, "Our Hands, Our Future!", and the ultimate objective of this day to mobilise communities, households, schools, and workplaces to wash hands with soaps to curb the spread of communicable diseases such as diarrhea and other related diseases.

Addressing the learners at Lebelo Primary School in Hammanskraal, Chief Development Expert Ms Lungile Zulu emphasised the importance of washing hands at critical times".

"We are here today because we want to talk to you about the importance of washing hands with soap and help you make washing hands a habit. I expect you to take the lessons learnt here today home and practice it", she said.

The event was held on Friday, 13 October 2015 as a partnership between the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Department of Health, City of Tshwane and Department of Education to take the cause of hand washing to every school child and the community in the country.

The partnership is in line with the DWS' vision of improving the quality of life in communities.

The event kicked off with presentations from various stakeholders on the importance of washing hands with soap, diseases related to poor hygiene and a demonstration on the six steps of washing hands.

"I have learnt a lot about the importance of washing hands. From here going forward I will wash my hands with soap at all critical times", said Claudette, a learner from Lebelo Primary School.

**Lucky Makgarengi**