



water & sanitation

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INTERNET ARTICLE

Sanitation and Hygiene Awareness celebration brings renewed hope of flushing

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The Sanitation and Hygiene Awareness celebration held on 19 May 2017 at Verulam village in the southern region of the City of Mbombela brought renewed hope that the community will soon fulfill their dreams of flushing toilets. This will be made possible as Cllr Siphon Siwela, MMC for Community Services in the City of Mbombela stated that the municipality is working on connecting all residents of the village to the sewer network.

In his address, Councillor Siwela said “Every household must have a toilet to ensure that every citizen has access to a proper toilet to preserve the human dignity. Let us work together to ensure that every household has a toilet that is connected to the sewer system. We must always dump our waste in designated areas and not use our rivers and streams as dumping sites”. He further reminded the community that water is scarce but is very important in life therefore it is crucial to use the available water efficiently, especially as we live in a water scarce country.

During the event, Mr Richard Mbambo, Sanitation Manager in the Department of Water and Sanitation in the Mpumalanga Province reminded the community about the importance of water and proper sanitation and encouraged the community to take care of the toilet facilities provided and protect the water and sanitation infrastructure from vandalism.

“The month of May is dedicated to awareness creation on sanitation, health and hygiene. It is therefore crucial that we always keep our toilets clean and to wash our hands after using the toilet and before touching food to prevent the spread of diseases. You must also conserve and use water sparingly and efficiently as ours is a water scarce country”, he said.

Community member, Ms Lizzy Nkosi could not contain her joy on the news that the whole village will be connected to the sewer network and said “This is wonderful news as it means we will no longer use the pit toilets. This means improved safety for women and children as



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we will no longer go out of the house to use a toilet, especially at night. This awareness event also helped to remind us of the importance of being clean and we are going to share the information with our children and neighbours”.

As part of the sanitation, health and hygiene awareness, Department of Health did a handwashing demonstration and encouraged the community to wash hands to prevent the spread of diseases as our hands can be a vehicle to transport germs and spread diseases. The community members were also given soaps, toilet papers, water saving tips, health and hygiene and handwashing tips pamphlets.

Themba Khoza