



INTERNET ARTICLE

World Toilet Day celebrated in Orange Farm

28 November 2017

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in partnership with the City of Johannesburg recently hosted the World Toilet Day event in Orange Farm, to raise awareness of the daily struggle for proper sanitation that billion people face across the globe.

A United Nations recognized event, World Toilet Day is observed annually on 19 November. It focuses on stimulating dialogue about sanitation and breaks the taboo around toilets and draw attention to the global sanitation challenge that still surrounds this issue. The theme for this year is “**Healthy Toilet, Healthy family**”.

During the awareness event, DWS gave a detailed presentation on the importance of toilets, water and sanitation related diseases and how to prevent them through good sanitation practices.

DWS’s Fikile Mokonoto pointed out that toilets are one of the most basic human rights and should always be well maintained to be usable and sustainable.

“Imagine a day without a toilet, what do you think will happen to us? Can anyone stay healthy without a toilet?”

There’s nothing frustrating like not having a toilet or finding a toilet in a bad state when you want to relieve yourself. “Let us take good care of our lives by cleaning and maintaining our toilets in good state”, she said.

The residents were excited to learn about the importance of toilets, something they called a rare but important exercise.

Ms Sophy Ndwadwe, a resident from Orange Farm described the event as an eye opener, praising it for how the event has changed her attitude towards toilets.

Committing to strive to practice good hygiene and sanitation, Ms Ndwande said: “I have always thought of a toilet as a place of indignity, but after attending this event I know toilets give us dignity and pride as women,” she said.

The City of Johannesburg’s Public Education Officer, Mr David Molema indicated that the biggest challenge they face in Orange Farm is constant sewer system blockages. He pleaded with the residents to abstain from throwing foreign objects such as rocks and tires on the sewer system.

“As the municipality we have serious challenges of infrastructure vandalism and sewer blockages caused by residents throwing unwanted staff on the system”, he said.

Lucky Makgarengi