



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Madelakufa residents empowered with health and hygiene education

22 May 2017

Practicing good hand washing habits could prevent the spread of common diseases such as diarrhea and pneumonia, especially in places such as Madelakufa informal settlement in Tembisa.

In Africa 50% of deaths occurring are said to be caused by poor hygiene. Over a million children die every year as a result of these preventative diseases.

Addressing the residents of Madelakufa during the door to door health and hygiene awareness campaign, DWS officials and City of Ekurhuleni water and sanitation ambassadors re-iterated the importance of hand washing as the most effective way to prevent the spread of infections.

The awareness campaign was done as part of the annual Sanitation and Hygiene Week celebrations which happens during the month of May. The theme for this year's campaign is "**Sanitation for health & dignity**", which is based on the government's commitment towards bringing dignity to the people through the provision of sanitation services.

The team knocked in every door distributing hand washing posters, water saving tips pamphlets and also engaging with the residents by demonstrating the steps of proper hand washing.

According Pearl Lediga, Customer Care Manager from City of Ekurhuleni, good hand washing techniques include using an adequate amount of soap, rubbing the hands together to create friction and rinsing under running water.

"We have the welfare of the people at heart, that is why we are here today talking to them about issues that affects their health and dignity", she said.

Residents were also urged to keep their area clean and refrain from littering on the streets.

Annah Baloyi, a resident from Madelakufa informal settlement welcomed the initiative and said that this was very helpful to her as a mother. "I always knew that washing hands is important, but I did not know that one can get sick by not washing hands properly", she added.

Lucky Makgarengi