



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **Mbombela officials reminded of the importance of handwashing**

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As part of the continuing public education and awareness of Global Handwashing Day, officials of the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in the Mpumalanga Province were reminded of the importance of handwashing through an educational session and demonstration in Mbombela.

Global Handwashing Day is an annual global advocacy day dedicated to increasing awareness and understanding about the importance of handwashing with soap as an easy, effective and affordable way to prevent diseases. This year the Global Handwashing Day is celebrated under the theme **“Clean hands – a recipe for health”** and focuses on the links between handwashing and food including food hygiene and nutrition. Handwashing at critical times, especially before cooking, eating or feeding others is one of the most important ways to keep food clean and safe, prevent diseases and help children grow strong. Connecting handwashing to an existing habit like a meal is a great way to form proper handwashing habits. The theme is basically a reminder to everyone to make handwashing a part of every meal.

Mr Richard Mbambo, the Sanitation Manager in the Provincial Office highlighted the background and history of Global Handwashing Day and alluded to the importance of washing hands with soap as the most efficient and cost effective way of preventing the spread of diseases, such as diarrhea.

Ms Chirwa and Ms Roda from the Department of Health presented on the health benefits of washing hands and also educated the staff members of the correct ways of washing hands through a handwashing demonstration. Ms Chirwa in her introductory remarks outlined the key reasons for washing and keeping hands clean for a healthy life. “Hands are the main reasons for the spread of diseases. Wash your hands before you eat and after using the loo. Remember to always rinse your fruits and vegetables before eating”, she said in encouraging the officials to always wash their hands at all critical times.

Ms Roda then took the officials on the steps of proper handwashing and taught them the handwashing song.

**Themba Khoza**