



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### Washing hands for a healthy nation

15 October 2018

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in partnership with the Department of Health and the Department of Education in Mpumalanga engaged learners and educators at Khuthalani Primary School in Tweefontein in an awareness celebration of Global Handwashing Day on 15 October 2018.

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.

The audience was reminded of the importance of washing hands with soap on a regular basis and the importance of water conservation. Former Baswa Le Meetse participants from the school, Ms Ayanda Mkwai and Ms Thandi Mahlangu did the handwashing demonstration and encouraged the learners to spread the message of handwashing with soap in their families and communities and also to participate in the Department’s 2020 **Vision for Water and Sanitation Education Programme (2020 VfwSEP)** and become water and sanitation ambassadors.

Thabiso Mbonambi, a learner at the school was very impressed with the educational awareness and stated that he will share what he learnt with his family and friends. “I learnt a lot in relation to handwashing and being healthy and I will share the information with my friends and family and also monitor to ensure that they wash their hands at all critical times, especially when preparing food, before and after eating”, he said.

Ms Mirriam Ngoatje from the DWS thanked the school for affording the Department the opportunity to educate and share important messages in relation to sanitation, health and hygiene for a healthier society.

**Themba Khoza**