



## INTERNET ARTICLE

### Celebrating World Water Day by educating kids in Ogies

27 March 2023

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Mpumalanga Provincial Operations in partnership with Eskom celebrated World Water Day by educating learners in Sukumani Primary School in Phola, Ogies in Emalahleni Local Municipality of the importance of water in life and water conservation on 22 March 2023.

Mr Themba Khoza from DWS Mpumalanga engaged the learners and educators on the importance of water as a source of life and the importance of water conservation for water security for the current and future generations. "We all need water to live. Without water, we cannot survive. This is how important water is in our lives. South Africa is a water scarce country and one of the driest countries in the world, and this make it important that we use the available water in a wise and sparing manner at all times. We cannot afford to waste water because every drop counts in our water scarce country as water has no substitute", he said.

Mr Khoza further shared water saving tips with the audience and also encouraged them to protect watercourses in the community. "Please take care of our rivers, streams and other watercourses in your community and prevent people using them as dumping sites", he stated.

World Water Day is a United Nations General Assembly endorsed special day to raise awareness and inspire action to tackle the water and sanitation crisis. World Water Day aims to underline the importance of water and is used as a basis for longer-term action to ensure that everyone in the world has access to safe water by 2030 while not negatively impacting the environment.

World Water Day was first observed in 1993 after the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution by which 22 March of each year was declared World Day for Water and it is coordinate by UN-Water.

This year, World Water Day was observed under the theme **Accelerating Change**, which calls for more action to solve the global water and sanitation crisis and to ensure that Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) is achieved. The theme also seeks to inform policy and decision-makers, inside and outside of the water community of how improvements in water resources management as well as access to water supply and sanitation services are essential to overcoming poverty and addressing various other social and economic inequities. Because water affects all of us, we all need to take action. Everyone can make a difference by changing the way they use, consume and manage water.

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## water & sanitation

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This year was also extra special as World Water Day marked the start of the UN 2023 Water Conference which ran from 22 to 24 March in New York. Minister Senzo Mchunu led the South African delegation in this once-in-a-generation opportunity to unite the world around solving the water and sanitation crisis.

Water saving tips pamphlets were distributed amongst the learners and they promised to share the tips with their families and friends.

**Themba Khoza**

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