



INTERNET ARTICLE

Engaging rural community on importance of water in celebrating National Water Month

22 March 2023

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Mpumalanga Provincial Operations in partnership with the Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency (IUCMA) and Mkhondo Local Municipality engaged the rural community of Newhome in an awareness creation celebration of the National Water Month on 16 March 2023.

The National Water Month is an important month in the DWS and South Africa's calendar as it is an expansion of World Water Day which is observed annually on 22 March and focuses its attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the protection and sustainable management of freshwater resources.

This year, the World Water Day and the National Water Month is observed under the theme "Accelerating Change", which 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.

The community members were reminded of the importance water conservation, using the available wisely and sparingly, and the protection of the water resources as South Africa is a water scarce country. The community members were also given water buckets to assist them in storing water in their households.

The Speaker of Mkhondo Local Municipality, Councillor Mduduzi Ngwenya welcomed the community members and outlined the purpose of the engagement. He also led the distribution of the buckets to the community members.

Mr Themba Khoza from DWS explained the importance of the National Water Month. "Water is life. We all need water for all aspects of our lives. As the world observes World Water Day on 22 March, the Department of Water and Sanitation declared the whole month of March as the National Water Month to spread the message and create awareness of the importance of water and water conservation as South Africa is a water scarce country. We need to always remember that water has no substitute therefore every drop counts as a drop lost will never be recovered", he said.

He further called on the community to protect water resources.

SOUTH AFRICA IS A WATER SCARCE COUNTRY





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“Please protect water resources to ensure they provide always quality water. Let us all protect water resources and prevent their pollution as pollution negatively affect water quality and makes water unfit for human, livestock, farming and environmental use. Let us all closely guard and protect our water resources”, he stated.

The community was so happy that their community was selected for the awareness campaign. They thanked DWS, IUCMA and the Mkhondo Local Municipality for thinking about and requested that they be not forgotten for future campaigns and celebrations. They thanked the Department for the buckets and stated that the buckets will go a long way in assisting them in storing their water in a healthy way.

Themba Khoza

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