



INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS and Emalahleni LM engage communities on water, sanitation and energy use efficiency

22 November 2024

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) Mpumalanga Provincial Operations, in partnership with Emalahleni Local Municipality, hosted a public education and awareness roadshow on water conservation, proper sanitation practices, and energy efficiency. The events took place on 21 November 2024 at Thubelihle Stadium in Ga-Nala and KG Mall in Kwa-Guqa.

Addressing the gathering, Cllr Busi Hlumbane, MMC for Technical Services in Emalahleni Local Municipality, highlighted the purpose of the campaign:

"The goal of this awareness campaign is to educate communities on efficient water usage, proper sanitation practices, and energy saving. As Emalahleni grows, so does its population, which increases demand on our limited water resources. We must all work together to prevent water wastage and ensure everyone has access to clean water."

Cllr Hlumbane urged residents to avoid flushing foreign objects down toilets to prevent sewer blockages, which create unpleasant conditions in the community. She emphasized the importance of responsible electricity use and called for active participation:

"This is not a formal meeting but a community-driven campaign. It is your event—learn, participate, and play your part. We are collaborating with the Department of Water and Sanitation, Nkangala District Municipality, and COGTA to bring this awareness to you."

Meanwhile, Jan Mabena from the DWS addressed the community on the critical importance of water conservation, reminding everyone that South Africa is a water-scarce country.

"Water scarcity requires every citizen to contribute to conservation efforts for long-term water security," he said. Mr. Mabena shared practical tips, including rainwater harvesting to ease pressure on municipal systems. He also encouraged residents to report leaks promptly, noting the distinction between household and municipal responsibilities.

"Leaks within your property are your responsibility to fix, while those in the bulk pipeline should be reported to the municipality," he explained, sharing the municipality's contact details and the DWS toll-free call centre number: 0800 200 200. He also demonstrated how to repair dripping taps to minimize water wastage.

SOUTH AFRICA IS A WATER-SCARCE COUNTRY





water & sanitation

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Speaking on behalf of the DWS Mpumalanga Head of Operations, Mr. Patrick Ntabeni stressed the value of collective action:

“At home, save every drop of water. This campaign demonstrates our commitment to supporting the municipality in its efforts. Please share what you have learned today with neighbors and family members who couldn’t attend.”

The Executive Mayor of Emalahleni Local Municipality, Cllr Vusi Nhlapo, urged residents to conserve resources and protect critical infrastructure.

“We purchase water from the DWS, and with every drop provided to you, we ask for your cooperation in using it wisely. Councillors, we must also address water losses at car washes and repair our aging infrastructure. The vandalism and theft of municipal cables are major contributors to service interruptions. Community members, you are the first line of defense—report any theft or vandalism and help safeguard our infrastructure.”

The campaign featured engaging role plays, interactive discussions, and the distribution of informative pamphlets on water saving, sewer maintenance, and energy efficiency. Community members who actively participated received promotional items as tokens of appreciation.

The event underscored the importance of collaboration between the government and the public in addressing critical resource challenges. By working together, communities can build a sustainable future and ensure access to essential services.

Themba Khoza

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