



INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS and Matlosana Local Municipality hosts National Water Week

27 March 2024

In celebration of Water month, the Department of Water and Sanitation, North West and the Matlosana Local Municipality kick-started a three-day long water week awareness campaign, from 18 March to 20 March 2024. They visited small farms/scarcely populated locations to communicate and create awareness on saving water, health and hygiene, vandalism, and sewage spillages.

On the first day, the 18th, Ms Mamokete Keikabile with the support of, Ms Molehadi Wanyane, and the councillor in Ward 08 Khuma, Mr Modesa Seitshiro encouraged the residents to report water and sanitation challenges to the Department of Water and Sanitation or the Municipality. The community members were also informed about water conservation, in order to preserve and save water for sustainable use. They were encouraged to re-use water for gardening purposes to flush toilets.

Community members were gifted with small vegetable gardens and watering cans to water their gardens. The watering cans are one of the instruments that help conserve water, because they use limited water. She also advised them to water their gardens in the morning before sunrise or in the evening just after sun set.

Ms Molehadi Wanyane from the City of Matlosana, also informed the community about the causes of sewage spillages in their neighbourhood. She stated that placing foreign materials, such as big stones or animal skin, into the manholes produces a blockage, causing raw wastewater to overflow into the streets. Also opening the manholes for rainwater to flow into them can also pose as hazard, because the water flows in with a large amount of sand and stones, causing blockages.

Ms Morekeng Phali from the Department of Water and Sanitation concluded the day on a word about the vandalization of water and sanitation infrastructure, she said that the government works hard to provide critical services to communities, yet, replacing and repairing stolen or defaced infrastructure is costly and time-consuming. This creates a safety danger and health hazards.

On the second and the third day, Ms Mamokete Keikabile was accompanied by Ms Molehadi Wanyane, and Ms Mathapelo Seitsho the councillor for Ward 13, to enlighten the residents Oblatefarm in Hartbeesfontein and Blinkwater farm in Ventersdorp. These places are scarcely populated, and therefore do not have running water.

The city of Matlosana has in turn taken it upon themselves, to make weekly water deliveries. Community members were informed about good practices of storing water, in order to protect it from the impurities in the air.

Pontsho Bodibe and Morekeng Phali

WATER IS LIFE – SANITATION IS DIGNITY

SOUTH AFRICA IS A WATER-SCARCE COUNTRY