



INTERNET ARTICLE

Public Education Programme reminding and encouraging communities to be responsible and wise water users

11 March 2024

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) embarked on a public education programme roadshow in the Mpumalanga Province from 05 to 07 March 2024 to remind communities of the importance of wise water use, water conservation, and to encourage them to protect the water and sanitation infrastructure against acts of vandalism and prevent illegal connections and also the protection of the water resources against pollution as South Africa is a water scarce country where every drop counts as water has no substitute.

The public education roadshow targeted learners as it is important to teach the kids responsible behaviour while they are still young to entrench responsibility and to build a responsible society. The roadshow also targeted communities and the public through busy community areas such as shopping centres and taxi ranks.

In Bethal in Govan Mbeki Local Municipality in the Gert Sibande District, the roadshow visited Thandanani Primary School and Etankini, which is a busy intersection in ward 23 where the learners and community members were reminded of the importance of water conservation and the protection of the infrastructure through talks, music and dance, and a drama depicting the prevention of water wastage. The learners and community members were also reminded of the importance of health and hygiene and were taken through the correct steps of handwashing.

Mr Dlodlu from Govan Mbeki Local Municipality thanked the Department for bringing such an important educational awareness to the school and community of Bethal. He stated that water is important in life therefore everyone must have access to the source of life and he further encouraged the learners and community members to use the available water in a very wise manner and prevent the loss of unnecessary water through wastage and irresponsible actions and behaviour.

Mr Orex Nkosi from DWS Mpumalanga outlined the purpose of the educational roadshow and encouraged the audience to take the tips provided seriously and implement them and play their role in ensuring water security for the current and future generations.

Mr Jan Mabena from DWS Head Office engaged the learners and the public on water conservation and demand management and shared water saving tips with the audience. He stressed that South Africa is a water scarce country which calls for everyone to be responsible

SOUTH AFRICA IS A WATER SCARCE COUNTRY





water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



and use the available water wisely and sparingly at all times to ensure reliable and sustainable water supply for the current and future generations.

Ms Vongani Mabasa took the audience through the proper steps of handwashing in promotion of health and hygiene and to prevent the spread of germs and diseases in the community.

One of the learners, Mlungisi Mahlangu took his fellow learners through the steps of handwashing with an interactive demonstration. He further promised to take all that he learnt about water conservation and the water saving tips and share with his family and friends and to encourage them to be responsible water users who take care of the infrastructure and protect the water resources.

Splash, the water hero entertained the audience and water saving tips leaflets were shared with the community members to ensure that the awareness session has an everlasting impact in the community.

In Nkomazi Local Municipality, the Public Education Programme visited Magewu Primary School and the taxi rank in Block C. Ms Nokuthula Sifunda engaged the learners and public on water conservation and the protection of water and sanitation infrastructure and the protection of the water resources and the environment at large. She called on the public to protect water supply infrastructure and prevent illegal connections as it affect the pressure leaving some communities, especially those on high lying areas without water. She also called on the communities to stop using the streams, rivers, wetlands and dams as dumping sites as the waste, especially disposable nappies pollutes the water resources.

The public education programme also provides a platform for community members to also share their best practices as the team also learnt some water saving ideas from the community members. It also provides a platform for the communities and their municipalities to engage on water and sanitation issues affecting the communities and interventions.

Themba Khoza

SOUTH AFRICA IS A WATER SCARCE COUNTRY



Department of Water and Sanitation South Africa



DWS RSA