



MEDIA STATEMENT

DWS in Gauteng marks Global Handwashing Day in Alexandra in a unique way

22 October 2021

The Department of Water and Sanitation in Gauteng continued with its activities to commemorate the annual Global Handwashing Day, in an effort to raise awareness about the importance of washing hands regularly with a soap to reduce the spread of diseases.

Today, 22 October 2021 joined by its partners WaterAid, City of Joburg, sister Departments, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and Environmental Affairs and Forestry, City Parks, ARMOUR, CONSOL amongst others braved the chilly morning and embarked on an education drive in Alexandra TB Settlements.

Under the theme, ***“Our Future is at Hand – Let’s Move Forward Together”***, Global Handwashing Day is an advocacy day dedicated to increased awareness and understanding about the importance of handwashing with soap.

This year’s commemoration comes at a critical time when the world is still battling with the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. the World Health Organisation has long called and advocated for washing of hands regularly with a soap as the most effective way of curbing the spread of viruses.

Speaking at a celebration, DWS Gauteng Acting Director: Water Services Support Mr Patrick Makhado said since the first Global Handwashing Day in 2008, the Department has used the day to spread the word about the importance of washing hands, forge progressive collaborations and ensure safer communities.

“The day is designed to not only foster and support a global culture of washing hands with soap but also shine a spotlight on and raise awareness about its benefits. At the heart of this year’s commemoration is a simple intention: To remind people of one of the biggest lessons that we have learnt during the pandemic - the importance of washing hands”, said Makhado.





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Makhado said, there are a number of activities undertaken by DWS in Gauteng aimed at raising awareness around handwashing. Today's activity in Alexandra included door to door visits to households, public places like ranks, malls and cleaning of Juskei River.

Chairperson of the Alexandra Water and Sanitation Forum, Mr Janky Matlala said with hand-washing techniques being the focal point, it is important for forum members and volunteers to understand the importance of the six steps of hand-washing, as they use hands throughout the day, handling objects that place their personal hygiene at risk.

The Department of Water and Sanitation led the demonstration and handed out soaps and sanitizers for the hygienic hand-washing routine.

End

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