



MEDIA STATEMENT

Global Handwashing Day to intensify the fight against Coronavirus

12 October 2021

Annually, the global community commemorates the Global Hand Washing Day (GHWD) 15 October in an effort to highlight the importance of washing hands with soap at critical times.

Celebrated under the theme, ***“Our future is at hand – let’s move forward together”***, this year’s theme comes at a time when the globe is still facing the effects of the devastating coronavirus pandemic. The washing of hands with soap has been bandied about by the World Health Organisation as the most effective way to stop the spread of the disease.

The Department of Water and Sanitation in Northern Cape has scheduled a number of activities in communities, including schools and clinics in various municipalities to raise awareness about the importance of washing hands with running water and soap.

Safely managed water and sanitation facilities, and the consistent practice of personal hygiene, are effective ways to prevent infectious disease outbreaks including the coronavirus. The (GHWD) and its core message of washing hands with soap, comes at an excellent time when there are concerted efforts to fight coronavirus. Washing hands with soap, used together with wearing a mask that covers mouth and nose and social distancing have emerged as a powerful tool to combat the COVID19.

The Department of Water and Sanitation is calling on all society to scale up hand hygiene, especially through handwashing with soap, Government is working toward being inclusive of all when addressing sanitation and health and hygiene disparities, so as to enable all to protect themselves from the coronavirus, but also other diseases such as diarrhea, cholera, and typhoid.

Although data shows the number of coronavirus infections in South Africa is gradually slowing down, we’re not out of the woods yet. The (GHWD) campaign will continue to be used to reinforce the message of good health and hygiene practises.

End

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

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