



MEDIA STATEMENT

DWS and Oudtshoorn Municipality commemorate World Toilet Day

21 November 2025

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), in partnership with the Oudtshoorn Local Municipality, commemorated World Toilet Day on 19 November 2025 under the global slogan, ***“We Will Always Need a Toilet.”*** The event highlighted the importance of dignified sanitation and the shared responsibility to protect and maintain water and sanitation infrastructure.

Leading the commemoration, the DWS Western Cape Provincial Head, Ms Ntombizanele Bila-Mupariwa, conducted a walkabout in Buffelsdrift, where newly constructed conservancy tank toilet facilities have recently been completed. The visit formed part of ongoing efforts to monitor sanitation improvements and ensure that communities have access to reliable, safe and sustainable sanitation services.

Following the site inspection, Ms Bila-Mupariwa addressed residents gathered at the Rosevalley Library, where she commended Oudtshoorn Municipality for its impressive progress in delivering sanitation services.

“The Oudtshoorn Local Municipality continues to perform exceptionally well within the province and nationally. With 93.7% of households having access to sanitation and only a 6.3% backlog remaining, this work is truly commendable,” she said.

She also emphasised the importance of ongoing investment and collaboration to strengthen sanitation service delivery and ensure long-term reliability.

Ms Bila-Mupariwa encouraged communities to take pride in their infrastructure and guard it against vandalism and misuse.

“As we celebrate this important day, I want to remind everyone that while government must provide dignified sanitation, the sustainability of these services depends on all of us. We must protect toilets, taps, sewer pump stations and all water infrastructure from damage.”

To reinforce hygiene awareness, the Department distributed soap and toilet paper to attendees as a reminder of the importance of healthy sanitation practices and the responsible use of toilet facilities.

END

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