



INTERNET ARTICLE

Education learners about sanitation and hygiene

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The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Mpumalanga Provincial has targeted young people in its sanitation awareness campaign. The month of May is sanitation month where important messages in relation to proper sanitation and hygiene practices are disseminated to benefit the public. The Mpumalanga Provincial Office kick-started its awareness campaign in Ludlow in Bushbuckridge Local Municipality and continued to Barberton in the City of Mbombela.

Mr Abednego Mboweni from DWS outlined the importance of proper sanitation and hygiene practices to ensure a healthy society and encouraged the learners and educators of Ekhiyeni Primary School in Barberton on 28 May 2019 to use the sanitation facilities in a proper way and always be clean and healthy. He also encouraged the learners to use the available water wisely and in a responsible manner, especially now that we are in the dry winter season. He further pleaded with the school to take care of the water tanks and prevent theft.

The learners were also given a handwashing demonstration to emphasize the importance of handwashing in sanitation, health and hygiene by Ms Lomina Shongwe. As they say that practice makes perfect, Ms Shongwe after her demonstration called on some learners to show their peers the correct way of washing hands and encouraged them to spread the message of handwashing to their friends, families and communities to ensure a healthy society as dirty hands spread diseases.

One of the learners who demonstrated the proper way of washing hands, Hope Nkosi stated that he learnt a lot during the awareness session and promised to be an ambassador of water conservation and proper sanitation and hygiene practices in his community. "I will monitor those who don't wash hands before and after our meals and remind them of the dangers of dirty hands and the benefits of clean and hygienic hands for our lives", he said.

As part of entrenching the culture of clean sanitation facilities and proper handwashing, the schools are presented with toilets papers, soaps, paper hand towel rolls, bleach, multipurpose cleaning agent, water cans, posters and pamphlets.









The sanitation awareness campaign targeting young people in primary schools continues to empower young people about the importance of taking care of our sanitation facilities and proper hygiene practices, with the next stop being Louiville. As we are already in the dry winter season, the campaign also emphasizes the importance of water conservation and proper and wise use of the available water and the protection of water resources for water security.

Themba Khoza



