



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **Gauteng pre-school learners jump for joy at DWS's handwashing awareness**

18 October 2019

As part of its Sanitation Campaign, the Gauteng Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) celebrated the campaign by educating pre-school learners about the importance of washing hands in Kokosi on Wednesday, 17 October 2019.

The department visited the Thembelihle and Masechaba pre-schools.

The campaign aims to prevent the spread of diseases and untimely deaths especially of children. Unhygienic practices have been singled out as the main cause of diarrheal cases in children.

This year's campaign is being celebrated under the theme: "Let's give everyone a clean hand". The theme reminds the public that it must be inclusive when addressing handwashing disparities.

DWS's Sanitation Manager in Gauteng, Ms Lungile Zulu, told learners how important it is to wash hands all the time.

"People are dying because of lack of information. Today, information has been brought to us to help prevent the spread of diseases and unnecessary deaths of children, Ms Zulu said.

She added: "We have learnt that we must always wash our hands after using the toilet and before we eat."

She stressed that children are vulnerable to a lot of sicknesses due to exposure to many conditions where they stay or play, reiterating that hand washing lessons and demonstrations are critical towards improving the well-being of the children and reduce high mortality rates.

"It is important that we target pre-schools so that children learn the importance of washing hands properly at an early age. Diseases such as diarrhea can be prevented if everyone practices the six steps of hand washing," she added.

The six washing steps for proper hand washing are:

- Wet hands with clean water and use soap;
- Rub both hands together; rub back of the hands;
- Rub i-between the fingers and clean the thumbs;
- Clean under the fingernails;
- Clean your wrists; and
- Rinse well with running water and dry with a clean cloth or by shaking in the air.



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The learners, who were accompanied by their teachers, had an exciting day as they learnt about how to wash their hands properly.

**Khulekani Ngcobo**