



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Kameelsdrift residents warm up to government's sanitation and hygiene campaign

27 June 2019

In an effort to reduce preventable diseases in informal settlements, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in Gauteng and the City of Tshwane (CoT) held a joint Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Campaign in Kameelsdrift Informal Settlement near Pretoria on Wednesday, 26 June 2019.

The door-to-door campaign was aimed at educating the residents about the dangers associated with inadequate handwashing and unhygienic sanitation practices.

Kameelsdrift is one of many informal settlements in the country that still uses pit toilets and this exposes them to various ailments, including diarrhoea.

The campaign also sought to highlight the importance of regularly washing hands after using a toilet and before touching food. Inadequate handwashing and cleaning toilets each day have had devastating results for communities that do not have proper toilets and running water.

DWS's Community Development Officer, Mr Aipheli Makumbane, expressed satisfaction at the manner in which members of the community welcomed the campaign, saying the campaign has gone a long way to change the community's attitude towards issues of water, handwashing and proper sanitation.

"The situation here is that many families share toilets and so it is vital that they embrace hygienic practices so that they prevent diseases such as diarrhoea which can be a challenge in communities like this one," said Mr Makumbane.

Mr Makumbane added that it was necessary for members of the community to actively participate in matters that affect them because it is they who bear a burden of insufficient resources. He cited health and security as most impacted when communities lacked proper facilities.

A local resident, Mr Ben Tikiso, welcomed the efforts of the Department and the municipality, reiterating that communities in informal settlements were adversely affected by illness that arose out of unhygienic practices.

Mr Tikiso said: "Our community does not have enough resources for each household to have its own toilet. Thus, it is very important to try to keep these toilets neat at all times. Failure to do this could result in people and especially children falling ill."

Mr Tikiso said the campaign was vital so that people did not get sick and become a burden on their families because of something that could have been prevented.

Another resident, Ms Germina Makangwe, said there was a need for water, sanitation and hygiene campaigns to continuously take place so that communities became aware about potential dangers of unhygienic practices.



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She said despite many families sharing one toilet in the area, they as residents had the responsibility to ensure that they worked to clean the facilities.

Ms Makangwe lamented the current state of their toilets and ascribed the unhealthy state of these facilities to community members.

“We have community toilets here but it must be up to all of us to keep them clean. The uncleanliness of our toilet facilities can only result in us suffering diseases. And, the sad part is that if that happens we only have ourselves to blame,” said Ms Makangwe.

Hosia Sithole