



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **Majaneng community welcomes DWS's sanitation and hygiene campaign**

10 June 2019

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in Gauteng and the Majaneng Water and Sanitation Community Forum held a joint door-to-door campaign to educate community members about the importance of good sanitation and hygiene.

The campaign took place at the Majaneng Village in Hammanskraal on Friday, 07 June 2019, where a number of households were visited.

The campaign was to ensure that the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6, the aim of which is to ensure the availability of sanitation for all, permeates all sectors of society. It also sought to tackle sanitation as an issue that hamper social and economic development of communities.

DWS's Chief Development Officer, Mr Aifheli Makumbane, said the purpose of the campaign was to encourage communities in the Majaneng community to take care of their toilet facilities as this impacted on their health.

"Because of lack of water in this community, there is a perception that sanitation and hygiene is not important. This needs to be corrected because the cleanliness of the toilet facilities has an impact on their health and especially on children under the age of five", said Mr Makumbane.

The forum's secretary, Ms Lorato Ditlopo, said the campaign was at the heart of ensuring that communities started to take note of issues that affected their lives and that they worked to change practices associated with sanitation.

She said: "Our role as the forum is to ensure that we bring awareness to our communities regarding issues of sanitation. We are here to sensitise them that they must take charge of their toilets and keep them clean. This is moreover important taking into account the number of children who die every day because of unhygienic practices.

A local resident, Ms Molatelo Molokomme, praised the Department and the forum for conducting the campaign, saying that communities needed to be reminded that they were the ones who were responsible for taking care of their toilet facilities.

"It is up to us as members of the community to care of our toilets. These facilities need to be cleaned every day and not just once in a while. This will avoid a lot of things such as illnesses and the expenses involved when people have to go to clinics for treatment.

Another resident, Ms Johanna Khalo, said she was cleaning her toilets albeit not daily and also lamented the shortage of water in the area.



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“The unavailability of water is detrimentally affecting the community but even so we must strive to make means that our toilets are free from germs. We lack water here but we must reuse the water we have to also clean our toilets so as to avoid diseases such as diarrhoea,” Ms Khalo said.

**Hosia Sithole**