



INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS and WaterAid install four handwashing facilities at Nageng Primary School

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Four handwashing facilities were recently installed at the Nageng Primary School in Vosloorus in the City of Ekurhuleni to promote good hygiene practices and prevent diseases – thanks to the partnership between the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) and WaterAid.

The four handwashing facilities are part of a sustainable programme by WaterAid to install essential services to informal settlements and schools in Gauteng and Limpopo Provinces.

With funding from UNICEF South Africa, eighteen (18) handwashing facilities will be installed in six (6) schools in Soshanguve, Vereeniging, Vosloorus and Springs, eighteen (18) handwashing stations in six (6) schools in Vhembe District, and an additional twenty-four (24) handwashing facilities in key hot spots in the Greater City of Johannesburg.

Regarding the installation at Nageng Primary School, Ms Sylvia Rikhotso, the Deputy Director at DWS's Gauteng Provincial Office, expressed optimism that the provision of the handwashing facilities to the school would bear good results and make a huge difference in the lives of the learners to ensure that they were in a position to continue with learning.

Ms Rikhotso said it was important that learners and teachers were not exposed to diseases and that they were sufficiently protected amidst the coronavirus.

“Lack of handwashing facilities in schools would expose both learners and teachers to diseases and although Nageng Primary Schools is not in area that has been flagged as a hotspot, the facilities would help to ensure they are in a safe environment for learning and teaching,” said Ms Rikhotso.

WaterAid Southern Africa Regional Programme Manager, Mr Elijah Adera, said his organisation was keen on working with national partners to ensure that key hygiene behaviour change practices such as handwashing with soap and water became engraved in the way of life of communities.

Treasury of the School Governing Body at the school, Ms Motshidisi Mokoena, expressed gratitude to the Department and WaterAid for the installation of the facilities, saying these facilities would make it easy for learners and teachers to ensure that diseases are prevented.

She said: “The school appreciates the installation of the facilities. Proper handwashing is one of the ways to prevent the spread of the coronavirus and any other disease. These facilities have made so much difference already.”

Ms Mokoena appealed to the Department and WaterAid to make the facilities available to more schools as this would have a positive impact on learning and teaching.

A teacher at the school, Mr Bethuel Malebe, praised the Department and WaterAid for their gesture, saying the handwashing facilities were part of encouraging hygiene amongst the learners.

He said this dovetailed very well with his school's eco-school project, which he was currently running at the school. He added that he saw the handwashing facilities as part of the school's efforts of promoting hygiene and environment awareness.