



INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS takes handwashing awareness to Bushbuckridge

22 October 2020

The Mpumalanga Provincial Office of the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) took the handwashing awareness campaign to the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality on 20 – 22 October 2020.

The focus of the educational awareness campaign was building a culture of handwashing from an early age by visiting primary schools around Bushbuckridge. As part of entrenching a culture of handwashing and making handwashing with soap a norm to prevent the spread of diseases, DWS officials visited Ndwandwe, Humulani, Samuel Mhlanga and Salani primary schools.

Regular and proper handwashing is critical to prevent the spread of diseases, especially now as we are faced with the deadly coronavirus. Hands are the most common highways for the transmissions and spread of bacteria and viruses that cause diseases resulting in people being hospitalized for treatment and at worst death. In our daily activities and routines, we usually touch many shared surfaces which makes us susceptible to contracting different forms of viruses, thus making it critical to frequently wash our hands to prevent us contracting and spreading diseases.

Mr Abednego Mboweni from DWS outlined the importance of proper handwashing with soap at critical times. “Properly washing our hands is now more important than ever before as we are faced with the deadly coronavirus. One of the critical ways to prevent the spread of the coronavirus is to wash our hands, so let us wash our hands properly and spread the message to our friends and families to stay safe and healthy. We are here to remind you of the proper ways of washing hands.

Ms Sandra Ndlovu, also from DWS took the learners and staff members through the steps of proper handwashing and encouraged them to share what they have learned through the demonstration with other learners, their friends and families. She also pleaded with the learners to practice water conservation when washing hands and play their part in ensuring water security as South Africa is a dry and water scarce country.





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As part of the educational awareness campaign, learners from different grades are called upon to showcase what they have learned and teach their peers of the proper handwashing steps and also to be ambassadors of handwashing in their schools and communities.

The schools were given sanitizers, soaps, buckets, hand towels, toilet paper and bleaches to assist them in building a culture of handwashing and having a clean and healthy environment.

Let us all have clean hands for a healthy life and healthy communities. Clean hands save lives!

Themba Khoza



Department of Water and Sanitation South Africa



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