



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS's handwashing messages land on fertile ground in Emaphupheni

29 October 2020

Residents of Emaphupheni in the City of Ekurhuleni vowed on Wednesday, 28 October 2020, to make sweeping changes to their hygiene practices by making handwashing ingrained in their everyday lives.

This commitment was made during the Global Handwashing Day activity, which was jointly celebrated by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), the City of Ekurhuleni and the local Water and Sanitation Community Forum.

Addressing the residents, Departmental official, Ms Zandile Maseko, said handwashing was part and parcel of ensuring healthy lifestyles, especially during the uncertain times of the coronavirus pandemic.

She said the Global Handwashing Day commemoration, which is celebrated under the theme: 'Clean Hands for All', was a clarion call for people to take responsibility for their own lives by washing hands.

Maseko added that there was evidence that washing hands regularly reduced chances of contracting deadly diseases. However, Maseko was quick to caution against excessively using water and advised that communities needed to take cognisance that South Africa was a water-scarce country.

"We have seen that diseases are expanding their reach through unhygienic behaviour and that the Covid-19 pandemic has made the situation even more pressing. So, we need to do whatever is possible to ensure that we wash our hands properly as a way of preventing these diseases," said Maseko.

Mphela Lamola, an official from the City of Ekurhuleni's Water and Sanitation, warned the community against connecting storm water drainage to the sewer network. He said the sewer network was designed to only transport wastewater and not large volumes of storm water.

Lamola cautioned: "Storm water intrusion can overload the sewer system and result in sewerage spilling on to roads and private properties. Don't dump foreign objects such as sand, stones, bricks and waste food into the sewer system."

One of the local residents, Ndileka Mani, welcomed the messages brought by government and promised to spread them in her community.

"It's time we realised we can't live our lives as we did before. Everything with the way we live has changed drastically. There is a need for us to adapt and change our hygiene practices," said Mani.

She went on to say the Global Handwashing Campaign could not have come at a better time as all over the world people were affected by the coronavirus.



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Mani advised that every community member must wash their hands regularly to avoid the prospect of falling with preventable diseases.

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