



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Global Handwashing Campaign aims to achieve clean hands for all

30 October 2020

The Global Handwashing Campaign theme: '**Clean Hands for All**' found expression on Thursday, 29 October 2020, when the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) upped its game by reaching out to the Lakeside community in Orange Farm, South of Johannesburg.

Throughout the country, the Department is rolling out the annual handwashing awareness campaign aimed at encouraging communities to take charge of their hygiene by washing hands properly.

Speaking to residents who had turned up for the campaign, Deputy Director at the Department, Fikile Mokonoto, explained the reasons behind the annual campaign and its ultimate goal.

Mokonoto told residents that the handwashing campaign was an international activity that was observed by nations across the world to sensitise communities about the importance of washing hands to prevent the spread of diseases.

She said the campaign was therefore a plea by the Department for all the people in the country to assume responsibility for their health and hygiene by means of handwashing.

In the same vein, Mokonoto alerted the residents to the scarcity of water that the country was facing and urged them to use the resource sparingly when washing hands.

She said it was unnecessary to leave taps running while washing hands because this meant that water was wasted.

"It is important to wash your hands at critical times and this includes before you prepare food and after using a toilet," she said, adding that many diseases were contracted as a result of a failure to adhere to these simple but helpful tips.

Mokonoto also made an impassioned plea to community members to take care not to throw foreign objects into toilets as these were responsible for blockages in the network.

"We plead with you to refrain from throwing things into toilets that should not go there. For instance, after haircuts, people throw hair into toilets and many a times they also throw stones and dead foetuses as well as stone," she warned.

She added that the network blockages in Orange Farm were a direct result of this conduct.

Chairperson of the local water and sanitation forum, Selby Ramolaise, said the handwashing campaign was at the centre of fighting a myriad of diseases and most importantly the invisible coronavirus.

Ramolaise echoed Mokonoto's water conservation efforts, saying as a sign of water-scarcity, the country was heavily reliant on the neighbouring Lesotho for water supply.



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He said even though they were encouraging the community to wash hands, it was essential that this was done in a manner that showed restraint and not abuse of the limited water resources.

A community member, Eric Mofokeng, expressed appreciation for the campaign and bringing positive messages to the community but decried the lack of water cuts in some parts of the area. In response, he was assured that the matter would be taken up with Joburg Water and that feedback would be provided in due course.

Buckets and hand sanitisers were distributed to community members after they were shown the six steps of proper handwashing.

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