



INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS appeals to Zandspruit residents to wash hands, save water

19 March 2021

The Department of Water and Sanitation's (DWS) Gauteng Provincial Office on Thursday, 18 March 2021, warned the Zandspruit community members in the City of Joburg against replacing proper handwashing practices with using only sanitisers.

The Department gave this advice during an awareness campaign that was held at the Zandspruit Taxi Rank where a number of government departments provided information about government services. Critical services such as testing for diseases such as HIV and TB were also given.

An array of stakeholders that participated in the campaign included the Right to Care, SASSA, SANCA, IEC, the Joburg Disaster Management and the City of Joburg Health Department.

Ms Shoki Malepe from DWS appealed to residents not only to use sanitisers but to ensure they washed their hands properly and regularly, saying using only a sanitiser was not enough to keep their hands clean.

"Sanitisers are important to prevent a number of sicknesses and should be carried all the time, especially when you go to crowded places like malls. However, washing your hands regularly with soap and water is key to keeping diseases away", Ms Malepe encouraged the public.

She pointed out that in washing their hands, members of the public must be alive to the fact that water was a limited resource in the country and that they should do everything possible to save it.

Malepe also mentioned water pollution as posing a serious threat to the quality of water across the country, stressing that the extent of the challenge called upon them to contribute to ending it.

"Committing to ensure that our water is free from pollution is a step to valuing our water resources as per this year's theme of "Valuing Water" in this Water Month", adding that the Department would hold various activities that would culminate in the annual World Water Day on 22 March.

Ms Malepe encouraged the public to heed the water saving tips that were provided by their municipalities, saying the excessive use of water was trampling on the fundamental rights of other citizens.

Mr Aluta Mabaso, who is a local resident, welcomed the Department's messages of water saving and hygiene.

"The information we got from officials shows that government is concerned about our plight. Therefore, we must take whatever they say to heart and commit to work with government to tackle the challenges we face", said Mr Mabaso.





water & sanitation

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