



INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS schools Drieziek community on dangers of improper sanitation and hygiene

17 May 2021

The Department of Water and Sanitation's sanitation educational campaign was in full swing to make a marked change towards the attitude of communities regarding sanitation and hygiene during an awareness campaign that took in Drieziek in the City of Joburg on Friday, 14 May 2021.

The Department undertook the campaign to sensitise communities about the dangers associated with sanitation and hygiene issues and to foster a change of behaviour towards making sure that communities adopt a healthy lifestyle.

Speaking to the communities, Departmental official, Ms Fikile Mokonoto, emphasised the need for Department and the communities to work together because issues of sanitation and hygiene affected everyone in the community.

Ms Mokonoto explained that there were serious issues when it came to objects that were thrown into toilets that were not meant to be there, saying this was sometimes because of lack of information on the part of some community members.

She said a lot of objects were seen at water treatment works which were shocking and she told the residents that these objects were responsible for blocking the sewer system which in turn resulted in spillages.

Ms Mokonoto said: "As a community you will raise issues of sewer spillages with your municipality to attend to and blame it for not doing enough to address your challenges. But, sometimes as communities we conveniently forget that it is own community who cause blockages in the system."

She advised that community members must start playing a constructive role by making sure that objects which blocked the sewer system should not be thrown there in toilets in the first place.

"Most of the problems of spillages that we experience would be a thing of the past if communities committed themselves to ensuring that nothing else was put into the toilet other than what is permitted to go there," Ms Mokonoto stressed.

She further appealed to residents to practice proper hygiene by washing hands regularly at critical times, saying that washing hands without using soap was a waste of water because not doing so had no effect on killing of germs.

Giving water saving tips, Ms Mokonoto asked the residents to use water sparingly because South Africa was a country with very limited water resources. She added that this was very important given the challenge brought about by the COVID-19 and that the numbers of the disease were starting to rise again in Gauteng.

While thanking the Department for the campaign, a local resident, Mr Mongameli Mbalo, lamented the break-down of communication between residents and ward councillors. He said





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this resulted in councillors not fully appreciating the challenges that community had to face everyday

He appealed to the Departmental officials to rope in councillors whenever such campaigns were to take place so that issues related to water and service delivery would be dealt with comprehensively.

The local Deputy Chairperson of the Water and Sanitation Forum, Mr Godfrey Duma, thanked the Department for the campaign, stressing that it would go a long way towards fostering a change of behaviour. He urged communities to go to the municipality whenever they experience challenges, including issues of indigents who could not pay for services.

Hosia Sithole

