



## INTERNET ARTICLE

### **DWS tells Drieziek residents change of mind is crucial to save limited water resources**

17 March 2021

The Department of Water and Sanitation in Gauteng called for a change of mindset to conserve the ever depleting water resources during a consumer education campaign that was held at Lighthouse Ministries Christian Fellowship in Drieziek Extension 4, City of Joburg, on Tuesday, 16 March 2021.

The campaign, which highlighted the importance of Water Month, was held by the Ministry of Human Settlement, Water and Sanitation. It was intended to inform residents about their rights pertaining to title deeds, and was held on the eve of the official handover of the title deeds to community members today, 17 March 2021.

“There is an urgent need to change the way we think when it comes to saving water. As communities, we cannot go on as usual because our country ranks amongst the 30 driest countries in the world,” warned DWS’s Water Sector Support Deputy Director, Mrs Fikile Mokonoto.

She said there were certain practices from which communities needed to urgently desist, and these included not closing taps when brushing teeth, filling the bathtub to the brim when taking a bath, as well as watering gardens at inappropriate times.

“Because of factors such as evaporation, it is not advisable to water your gardens during the day. The best time to do so is at 06:00 in the morning and 18:00 at night. Watering gardens during the day is a waste of water resources that we don’t have” she said.

Mrs Mokonoto noted the abnormality of what she described as ‘Spring Day’ on which children misused water, saying community members must help stop this practice.

Other topics of interest that the DWS shared with the public were the six steps of handwashing, especially during this time of COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms Eliza Ramokgopa, a Community Development Office at the Department of Human Settlements, empowered the public with information to understand their rights, responsibilities, advantages and disadvantages of their housing needs.

Specifically, she informed them about the title deeds. She told the members that a title deed was a legal document that described a vacant stand or property, saying it contained information such as the size of the erf, building lines and servitude on the erf.

She warned community members against using their title deeds as collateral when borrowing money because if they cannot afford paying it back they may lose their homes.

She said a title deed was an important document that should be kept in a safe place and that they should refrain from buying houses without proof of the document.

“If you have a dispute with your title deed, you must go to the Deeds Office in Johannesburg to have your matter sorted out,” Ms Ramokgopa advised.





## water & sanitation

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