



INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS ushers in Youth Month by donating sanitary towels to schools in Cosmo City

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The Department of Water and Sanitation ushered in the Youth Month of June as a means to invest in the future youth and giving back by donating 2000 sanitary towels to two neighbouring schools in City of Joburg's Cosmo City, on Monday, 31 May 2021.

The occasion was a perfect one for the learners of Cosmo City Junior Primary School and Cosmo City 1 Primary School who received the sanitary towels – thanks to the Department in partnership with WaterAid SA and UNICEF.

An official of the Department, Ms Shoki Malepe, informed the learners from schools, especially the girls, that the Department was particularly concerned about the plight of many girls who had to skip school because they were experiencing menstruation.

She told the learners that menstruation was nothing to be ashamed of, saying it was part and parcel of growing up and being female. She further urged the girls to be proud of their bodies and to help one another when one of them experienced menstruation while at school.

Ms Malepe appealed to the learners to keep their bodies clean at all times and cautioned them against disposing sanitary towels into toilets as this contributed to the sewer blockages.

"We know that there are a lot of things that are thrown into the toilet. Sanitary towels are not one of those things. Items that should go into the toilets include tissue paper, urine and faeces. Anything else does not belong in the toilets and should not be flushed," Ms Malepe said.

Ms Mpho Mokone from the Cosmo City Women's Forum, a civic organisation that deals with community issues, said the donation of sanitary towels would assist with ameliorating lack of sanitary towels at the schools so that no child should be without sanitary towels and miss school.

She said the sanitary towels would be kept at the schools' premises so that every child who happened to need them may access them immediately. Ms Mokone added that there was now no need for learners to miss school time because of not having sanitary towels.

Thankful for the donations, learners at the schools, Esther Makabeni and Zandile Mnisi, vowed to help each other when one of them experienced menstruation. They also promised not to tease other learners but that they would alert teachers if one of them required assistance.

Deputy Principals at the schools, Mrs Mamodisa Mofokeng and Mr Sepadi Maepa, also expressed gratitude for the Department's response to the plight of the learners. They said the donations would have an immense impact on making sure that no learner missed school.

Hosia Sithole

