



INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS's door-to-door campaign gives new meaning to Bophelong residents on ending water pollution

29 March 2021

The Department of Water and Sanitation's (DWS) in Gauteng brought a fresh perspective on water conservation to Bophelong's residents in the Emfuleni Local Municipality during a door to door campaign to celebrate of Water Month on Friday, 26 March 2021.

The door to door activity was one of many activities held throughout the country under the umbrella of the annual Water Month campaign. This year's celebrations take place under the theme: **'Valuing Water'**.

As one of the areas that experience a challenge of prolonged raw sewer pollution into the Vaal River and households, the subject of saving water and keeping it clean found resonance with the community of Bophelong.

Addressing community members, Ms Shoki Malepe from the Department of Water and Sanitation, said the community in the Emfuleni Local Municipality has a first-hand experience of what it meant to have sewer polluting the Vaal River and their yards, explaining that this contamination had dire consequences for them and their livelihoods.

Ms Malepe said this state of affairs had a negative bearing on the ability of the people to secure jobs as companies with a potential to invest were deterred by the contamination of water.

She informed the community members that they had an important role to play to ensure that their water was clean, saying that throwing foreign objects into water courses was one of the leading reasons for pollution.

"The theme for this year's celebrations emphasises the fact that communities must value water and not take it for granted. It is through valuing and appreciating this scarce resource that we would be able to have sustainable livelihoods. In the absence of valuing water, we are all doomed to perish," Ms Malepe warned.

Ms Thembi Matjokane from the municipality's Office of the Speaker, said the municipality was facing water challenges that required all stakeholders to make meaningful contributions to dealing with pollution and water conservation. She said dealing with this and other challenges was not only a responsibility of the government but of all the interested parties.

Chairperson of Save the Vaal, Mr Malcolm Plant, echoed Ms Matjokane's sentiments saying the survival of the nation was heavily reliant of protecting the limited water resources that the country still had.

He urged community members to be part and parcel of ensuring that water was given the respect it deserved so that it continued to provide opportunities that would otherwise not be available without water resources.





water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Water and Sanitation Community Forum in Bophelong, Mr Thabo Seholoba, expressed hope that the messages of saving water and desisting from pollution would be taken to heart by community members.

“The seriousness of the messages the community received today should nudge them to perceive our water resources differently. We cannot carry on as usual given the magnitude water pollution and wastages. We just have to change our behaviour,” concluded Mr Seholoba.

Hosia Sithole



Department of Water and Sanitation South Africa



DWS_RSA