



## INTERNET ARTICLE

### Etwatwa community pledges to heighten water conservation efforts

30 March 2021

The community of Etwatwa in the City of Ekurhuleni has vowed to rally behind efforts to conserve and value the importance of water resources following a Department of Water and Sanitation's (DWS) Water Month celebration on Monday, 29 March 2021.

The celebration, which takes place under the theme: **"Valuing Water"**, targeted community members at several car washes and the Consumer Care Centre.

At the first stop at Oupa Mahlaba's Car Wash, DWS's official, Ms Fikile Mokonoto informed the car washers about the annual campaign to conserve water and appealed to them to use water sparingly as they went about their work.

She added that by its very nature the business of washing cars needed a lot of water but said there were ways to prevent the excessive use water.

"Hosepipe are not allowed when you wash cars. It's far much better when you use buckets. In so doing, you will be saving water. Imagine if you had to use a hosepipe when washing all the cars and that water gets wasted," Ms Mokonoto said, adding that it was vital that car washers realised that the country was water-scarce.

Mr Mahlaba, the car wash owner, appreciated the Department's visit to tell them about the water situation in the country, saying that they sometimes took it for granted that water was enough and there were no challenges.

He assured officials that now that they were aware about the state of water resources, they would be more cautious in how they used water and that they would ensure that they saved the scare resource and value it.

At the Consumer Care Centre several residents were receptive to the messages of water-saving, promising to not let their guard down in their endeavours to make sure that water was not polluted and that it was saved.

Mr Wiseman Boo, a local resident, said he was concerned about the water challenges in the country but added that not all the citizens in the country knew about this for them to act positively.

He however acknowledged the work of the Department and said it was doing something to alert communities about water issues and said that this would further push all community members to do their bit to save water.

Another resident, Ms Nonhlanhla Nkosi, echoed Mr Boo's sentiments but added that the issue of saving water needed to be ingrained in the minds of all citizens because there was a certain level of understanding in all communities that there was water shortage in the country.

"I think by now everyone is aware that water is a scare resource and that it costs huge amounts of money to supply it to every household. So, we must all commit to protect it because when it runs out, we are the ones who face hardships," Ms Nkosi said.





## water & sanitation

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Chairperson of the local Water and Sanitation Forum, Mr Mandla Dlamini, welcomed the Department's campaign, pledging that they would strive to make sure that water wastage is stopped and pollution became a thing of the past in the area.

**Hosia Sithole**



Department of Water and Sanitation South Africa



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