

# INTERNET ARTICLE

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## Keeping toilets clean, keeping communities healthy

26 November 2021

The Department of Water and Sanitation's Sanitation Unit in Mpumalanga engaged beneficiaries of toilets in Bushbuckridge on 25 November 2021 as part of World Toilet Day celebrations under the theme "**Valuing Toilets**".

The toilets are part of sanitation interventions implemented by the Department to ensure that communities have access to safe and dignified toilets to preserve human dignity.

Toilets play a major role in people's health and dignity. It is therefore critical that we always keep our toilets clean and healthy to ensure that they do not turn into death traps. Clean toilets mean healthy societies and a healthy nation.

As part of the drive to ensure that the public value their toilets and other sanitation facilities, officials from the sanitation unit engaged community members to check on the toilets and to educate them of the importance of cleaning them and always keeping them hygienic. The identified households were given toilets cleaning materials which included toilet brushes and disinfectants to ensure that they have the necessary materials to keep their toilets clean, hygienic, and healthy always. Ms Lomina Shongwe from the Sanitation unit demonstrated how to clean the toilets using the materials to ensure their cleanliness.

The community members were also reminded of the importance of regular washing of hands to keep diseases away. Regular handwashing is the most efficient and cost-effective way of preventing the spread of diseases therefore it must always be done in a proper way. Ms Shongwe demonstrated the steps of proper handwashing to ensure that the community members wash their hands in a proper and hygienic manner to keep germs and diseases at bay.

One of the community members, Ms Bhila from Shangaanhill thanked for the Department for the toilets as they have improved their quality of life. "I would like to thank the Department that you have not forgotten us since you last built these toilets. We appreciate your educational efforts in reminding us about the importance of taking care of the toilets and the importance of washing hands for a healthy life. Lastly, I want to thank the Department for the cleaning materials that we ensure that our toilets are always clean and healthy", she said.

As South Africa is a water scarce country, the community members were reminded of the importance of water conservation and were encouraged to use the available water in a wise and sparing manner as water has no substitute.

**Themba Khoza**

**WATER IS LIFE – SANITATION IS DIGNITY**

**SOUTH AFRICA IS A WATER SCARCE COUNTRY**



**water & sanitation**

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