



INTERNET ARTICLE

Keeping hands clean and healthy save lives

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The Department of Water and Sanitation's (DWS) Mpumalanga Province engaged learners from Nkosabo, Thembalihle, Moutse and Ukuphumula kwe Sizwe primary schools in the Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality on an educational handwashing awareness event to remind the learners of the importance of washing and keeping hands clean, safe and healthy as the most effective and cheap way of preventing the spread of diseases. This educational event, as part of the Global Handwashing Day advocacy celebrations was held at Nkosabo Primary School on 29 October 2021.

Ms Sandra Ndlovu took the learners on the proper steps of handwashing demonstration. She also called on learners from different schools to showcase what they have learned so that they become ambassadors of proper handwashing in their schools.

Mr Richard Mbambo from the Sanitation unit in the DWS Mpumalanga office reminded the audience of the importance of washing hands with soap and water. "Global handwashing Day is an international advocacy day. People all over the world wash hands but most don't use soap. This special day is to remind each other of the importance of washing our hands with soap and water at all critical times. We are now faced with the challenge of COVID-19 and the proper washing of hands is critical in the fight against this killer disease. The programme does not end here but let us continue to spread the word of the importance of washing hands with soap and water. I humbly request that you teach others of the proper steps of handwashing that you have learnt here today. Lastly, I want to thank the host school and other schools for allowing us as a department to come here to educate and remind each other of the importance of proper handwashing with soap", stated Mr Mbambo.

As part of the awareness creation, the learners were reminded that South Africa is a water scarce and dry country and hence it is critical that they always use water wisely and sparingly. To ensure that they practice water conservation, water saving tips were distributed.

The awareness event was so informative and educational, and the learners rendered educational entertainment items that focused on the importance of handwashing and water conservation. The learners learnt a lot from the presentations and from each other. "I now understand why it is important to always wash and keep my hands clean and healthy at all





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times. I have also learned how to properly wash my hands and how to save the little water we have”, said Bokamoso Bosoga, a learner from Nkosabo Primary School.

For their participation, the schools received soaps, sanitizers, bleach, dishwashing soaps, detergents, hand towels and buckets.

Themba Khoza



Department of Water and Sanitation South Africa



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