



INTERNET ARTICLE

Residents of Mnquma Local Municipality vow to keep their toilets clean

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The abhorred subject of toilets took centre stage in Nyidlana Primary School in Ngqamakhwe, Eastern Cape where learners and educators were taught about the importance of practicing good hygiene in their daily lives.

This educational campaign, spearheaded by the Department of Water and Sanitation, was supported by Amathole District Municipality in an effort to break the taboo associated with toilets and emphasise the important role toilets play in people's lives. The campaign also stretched to Nyidlana village where the community was also encouraged to look after their toilets to ensure good hygiene and stop the spread of diseases from one person to the next.

Mr Mthembeni Maseti, Environmental Health Practitioner from Amathole District Municipality spoke at length about contagious diseases associated with filthy toilets and the culture of not washing hands properly with running water and soap.

"By leaning your toilets and washing your hands frequently with running water and soap, you can prevent the spread of diseases such as cholera, diarrhea and the novel coronavirus pandemic amongst other diseases out there", he emphasised.

He urged the community members to look after their toilets by keeping them clean and close seats at all times to prevent flies in spreading diseases.

"We want only three things in the toilet; faeces, urine and toilet paper. Let us not kill living organisms in the toilet by putting in chemicals because they are there for a reason. Rather use lime to kill smell in the toilet if there is some. When the toilet is full, please call the municipality and it will send a honey sucker to clear it", said Maseti.

Ms Thandiwe Gladile, Sanitation Project Manager at the Department of Water and Sanitation explained the 8 steps of handwashing especially after using a toilet to curb the spread of diseases. "First wet hands with water before applying soap. Wash every finger and in-between





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fingers and nails. Rinse with clean running water and dry with a towel or shake off excess water from hands”, concluded Gladile.

A Ward 15 Committee Member in Mquma Local Municipality, Ms Nokubonga Hlekiso welcomed the initiative by the Department and the support of the Local Government and said urged the public to take the imparted knowledge to heart and implement it in their homes. Furthermore, he added that this education came at the right time and he is hoping that lives will be saved.

Thandile Ngcume



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