



INTERNET ARTICLE

Handwashing awareness for Gert Sibande and Nkangala Districts

23 April 2021

The Department for Water and Sanitation (DWS), Mpumalanga Provincial Office intensified its awareness campaign in promoting regular washing of hands with soap as the best way to prevent the spread of viruses and diseases.

The handwashing awareness roadshow which took place from 12 to 23 April targeted primary schools in the Gert Sibande and Nkangala Districts. Forty schools were visited and the learners were reminded of the importance of regular and proper handwashing, more especially during school holidays.

The awareness campaign is more critical to entrench a culture of regular handwashing now more than ever before as we are faced with the deadly coronavirus. It is important to teach and remind the learners at an early age that it is their responsibility to keep their hands clean and healthy so that they do not contract and spread viruses and diseases.

Ms Lomina Shongwe and Ms Sandra Ndlovu from the Sanitation Unit in the DWS Mpumalanga Provincial Office demonstrated the steps and proper way of washing hands to the learners. They encouraged the learners to be ambassadors of proper handwashing in their households and spread the message to their communities. Learners were called upon to demonstrate the handwashing steps to their peers to show their understanding of what they have been taught and what was demonstrated.

The schools were thankful of the awareness campaign and stated that it will go a long way in entrenching a culture of handwashing amongst the learners and the communities. One of the learners at Bawokuhle Primary School in Thembisile Hani Local Municipality promised to share the information and what she learnt through the demonstrations with her family and friends.

“I will teach them of the correct way to wash hands and kill germs, and I will monitor them if they are doing it right”, she said.





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As part of the health and hygiene promotion, the schools were given soap, toilet papers, disinfectants, cleaning materials, toilet brushes, handwashing water container with tap for handwashing, gloves and sanitizers.

The learners were also reminded of the importance of using water wisely as South Africa is a water scarce country.

“As much as we have to regularly wash our hands, let us do so in a responsible manner and not waste even a single drop as water is a scarce commodity in our dry country. Let us make water conservation part of our lives. Water is life as we use it to wash our hands and put diseases at bay, but let us also remember water has no substitute. Let us make every drop count”, stated Mr Themba Khoza from DWS.

As part of the water conservation awareness, the schools were also given water saving tips.

Themba Khoza



Department of Water and Sanitation South Africa



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