



INTERNET ARTICLE

Sibanye-stillwater employees welcome DWS's sanitation and hygiene messages

12 May 2021

The Department of Water and Sanitation in Gauteng kicked off its Sanitation and Hygiene Week celebrations by casting its eye on protecting lives by promoting proper hygiene practices to employees of Sibanye-Stillwater Driefontein's Operation in Carletonville in the West Rand on Tuesday, 11 May 2021.

The celebrations, which commenced from the 11th to the 15th this month, will see officials of the Department traverse the country to raise awareness about issues relating to sanitation and hygiene. Municipalities and communities will be encouraged to be alive to matters of sanitation, health and hygiene for them to live in healthy and thriving communities.

Welcoming the officials of the Department, Mr Zamindlela Chita, a professional nurse at the Driefontein Sibanye-Stillwater Clinic, said the partnership between the Departments of Water and Sanitation, Health and the community of workers was something to be proud of in an attempt to keep sicknesses at bay.

He said the promotion of sanitation and hygiene was vitally important given the impact that COVID-19 has had on communities. He stressed that prioritising sanitation and hygiene was one of the ways of making sure people remained safe.

Addressing different groups of employees who responded to the campaign, Departmental official, Ms Lungile Zulu, appealed to the employees to take issues of sanitation and hygiene seriously as these had a huge impact on their lives.

Ms Zulu said it was meaningless for people to wash their hands while their toilets were not regularly cleaned and areas around them were not kept neat.

"Washing hands after using a toilet is correct and encouraged. However, doing so while these facilities are not kept clean at all times defeats the purpose of washing hands and trying to prevent the spread of sicknesses. A toilet is a facility that should be clean at all times, especially now during the COVID-19," Ms Zulu cautioned.

She told the employees that sanitisers were not a substitution for proper handwashing, saying the use of sanitisers was meant for emergency situations wherein access to water was not readily possible.

Ms Zulu said: "Immediately when you have access to water you must ensure that you wash hands. There is no replacement for proper handwashing. As much as one has used a sanitiser, there is still a great need to wash hands with running water and soap and that's how you get rid of germs."

An employee at the Sibanye-Stillwater, Ms Khaya Maneli, said the visit of the Department was an eye-opener and needed to be pursued by all communities so that illnesses could be prevented.





water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Ms Maneli said she had taken to heart the messages that foreign objects were not supposed to be thrown into the toilets as this caused blockages of the sewer system and led to sewer spillages, with dire consequence for people's lives.

Hosia Sithole



Department of Water and Sanitation South Africa



DWS_RSA