



## INTERNET ARTICLE

### **Stinkwater residents ignited by DWS' sanitation campaign to protect themselves**

26 May 2021

The Department of Water and Sanitation upped the ante when it conducted a sanitation and hygiene awareness campaign to crackdown on the spread of diseases associated with unhealthy lifestyles in Stinkwater, Hammanskraal in the City of Tshwane on Wednesday, 26 May 2021.

On the strength of the campaign, which was undertaken in partnership with the Majaneng Water and Sanitation Community Forum, the Department strived to sensitise community members about the need for them to educate and inform each other about the usefulness of toilet facilities, proper handwashing and water conservation.

Ms Bridget Maleka, an official at the Department, said keeping toilets in hygienic conditions provided protection against diseases which were prevalent if toilets were neglected and not cleaned on a regular basis. She said the country would be firmly on course to deal with needless illness and death if residents took the necessary steps to keep toilets clean.

She said: "Almost every day we see incidents where people get sick because of living in unhygienic conditions, especially with regards to toilets. The sad part is that this should not be the case. However, we are also encouraged that there are people within communities who are committed to hygiene practices and this reduces the number of people who have to seek medical attention."

Ms Maleka informed the residents that proper handwashing was intimately linked with sanitation, encouraging them to wash hands with running water and soap at critical times.

The Department has consistently highlighted how not practising proper handwashing is having a negative impact on the people's lives.

Ms Maleka also called on residents to desist from polluting water resources because this cost the country exorbitant amounts of money to decontaminate it.

"Water is a resources that we cannot afford to live without. Our country is water-scarce and therefore we should take heed to ensure that everyone is able to have access to water. If water is used without regard to other's needs, it means we are infringing on their rights, which are enshrined in the Constitution," Ms Maleka said.

While distributing sanitisers to the residents, Ms Maleka advised them against throwing caution to the wind by not using sanitisers correctly. She said the practice of ingesting sanitisers through needles to get high was dangerous and should be condemned by all.

"The practice of using sanitisers as some sort of a drug is dangerous and this is the message we should always tell the people that this is not allowed. The sanitisers we distribute to people is for the sole purpose of making sure that they are protected from the COVID-19," Ms Maleka said.





## water & sanitation

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Deputy Chairperson of the Majaneng Water and Sanitation Community Forum, Ms Martha Nkadameng, appreciated the cooperative work between the Department and the forum. She said there was a responsibility on the two parties to strengthen their relationship for the benefit of the community.

She hailed the awareness campaign, saying it had addressed issues that were pertinent to them to the community, adding that such campaigns should be held on an ongoing basis to inform and educate communities to inspire them to take action to protect their lives.

**Hosia Sithole**



Department of Water and Sanitation South Africa



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