



INTERNET ARTICLE

World Toilet Day observed in Mashishing

06 December 2022

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Mpumalanga Provincial Office closed the Sanitation Campaign with a World Toilet Day commemoration with the communities of Mashishing and surroundings in Thaba Chweu Local Municipality on 30 November 2022.

In outlining the purpose of World Toilet Day, Mr Patrick Ntabeni, the Director of Water and Sanitation Services Management in the Mpumalanga Provincial Office, called on those in attendance to respect toilets and always keep them clean.

“The purpose of this event is to make you aware of the importance of toilets and sanitation facilities and the plight of those still without proper and dignified toilets and sanitation facilities. As the department, we are also here to make and strengthen partnerships. This year’s theme *“Sanitation and Groundwater: making the invisible visible”* is very relevant to South Africa as a water scarce country.

“South Africa has a water scarcity challenge and if we do not take care of our sanitation systems, our groundwater will be contaminated and we cannot use this important resource”, said Mr Ntabeni.

World Toilet Day is observed annually on 19 November to inspire action to tackle the global sanitation crisis and help achieve Sustainable Development Goal No 6 (commonly known as SDG 6), which promises sanitation for all by 2030.

Since lack of sanitation affects other developmental aspects and targets such as gender equality, health, environment and nutrition, sanitation should be a priority, thus the need to raise its profile to change the mindsets of ordinary citizens, decision makers, all spheres of government and all stakeholders through advocacy programmes and campaigns.

The World Toilet Day was created to raise global awareness about the limited access to sanitation facilities around the world and it was declared by the United Nations in 2013.

The Station Commander of the Mashishing Police Station, Colonel L Motsileng called on the community to protect water and sanitation infrastructure and report the theft of government infrastructure so that criminals can be arrested and removed from the community as the theft of the infrastructure affects water supply and lead to sewerage running in the streets and polluting the environment which includes water resources.

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water & sanitation

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Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



In his address the acting Executive Mayor of Thaba Chweu Local Municipality, Cllr Quintin Lawrence called on the community to take care of their toilets and protect water and sanitation systems.

“We face a global sanitation crisis. Sanitation systems spread human waste into rivers, lakes, soil and polluting the water resources under our feet. Safely managed sanitation projects protect groundwater from the human waste pollution. Everyone must have access to a toilet connected to a sanitation system that removes and treats human waste. The link between sanitation and groundwater cannot be overlooked.

“This World Toilet Day let’s make the invisible visible. We are seriously offtrack to ensure safe toilets for all by 2030. With only eight years left, our country needs to work four times faster to meet the SGD target,” said Cllr Lawrence.

The community members were also reminded the importance of washing hands after using the toilet. Ms Vongani Mabasa, a Community Development Officer in DWS Mpumalanga demonstrated the proper steps of handwashing and community members were also called to showcase what they have learned to show their understanding.

Learners from local pre-schools and a primary school provided educational entertainment and reminded the community about the importance of using water wisely and sparingly and proper hygiene. As a reward for their participation in the awareness creation celebration, the schools were given toilet papers, cleaning detergents, soaps, and buckets with taps to promote clean toilets and the washing of hands.

Themba Khoza

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