

INTERNET ARTICLE

Gauteng DWS led Water Month campaign at Gauteng Malls.

14 March 2022

The Department of Water and Sanitation in Gauteng has embarked on National Water Month at Jubilee Mall in Hammanskraal and at Alexandra Mall in Johannesburg on the 10th and 11th of March 2022.

The campaigns precede World Water Day which is observed annually on 22nd of March to encourage the importance of freshwater and to advocate for the sustainable management of freshwater resources.

This initiative is endorsed by the United Nations (UN) to use the day as a basis for long-term action involving governments across the globe. The UN aims to ensure that everyone in the world has access to safe water by 2030, while not impacting negatively on the environment.

Each year, the United Nations Water sets a theme for World Water Day which responds to a current or future challenge. This year's theme is "*Groundwater – making the invisible, visible*", which seeks to remind policy and decision-makers, inside and outside the water community, that South Africa is a water scarce country.

The campaigns were joined by the City of Joburg, Rand Water, and non-governmental organisations such as Water Aid, Alexandra and Majaneng Water and Sanitation Environment Forums, Alexandra Peace Ambassadors, Shomang Sebenza Development Initiative, Alexandra Rotarians and Alexandra Men's Forum.

The two-days event will bring awareness on how to enable an environment for effective water and sanitation management; and increased awareness on the use, management, conservation, development and protection of water resources. The campaign will also bring awareness on groundwater management systems.

Mr Khulekani Ngcobo from Gauteng DWS said the best way to tackle water and sanitation issues is to work together and to communicate consistently to effect behavioural change from the communities.

"Adaptation to climate change and threats to the environment will require management to take greater account of the interdependent nature of water resources. Access to water is vital to the location and growth of cities, and our survival", said Mr Ngcobo.

With Covid-19 pandemic, which remains a challenge, washing of hands with water and soap for at least 20 seconds and sanitising frequently is still very important.

"Despite washing of hands, we encourage communities to be cautious not to waste water. We appeal to all of you to play your part in saving water", he said.

Mr Thabo Mapasa represented Alexandra Water and Sanitation Community Forum, and he said World Water Day is meant to be a call to action.

"It is critical to generate awareness about the crisis and motivate people, businesses, and agencies to take action. This includes educating people about the scope and impact of water scarcity, how to

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conserve water, and how to support water organizations helping people get access to clean water”, he concluded.

KHULEKANI NGCOBO

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