



INTERNET ARTICLE

Department of Water and Sanitation takes sanitation education drive to Orange Farm

23 May 2022

The National Sanitation and Hygiene Week took centre stage on Friday, 20 May 2022, when the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) Gauteng upped its game by reaching out to the Orange Farm community in Orange Farm, South of Johannesburg.

Sanitation and Hygiene Week awareness campaign is aimed to encourage local government and communities to prioritise sanitation, health and hygiene and further to highlight the work that the Department is doing to ensure that, all South Africans have access to sanitation.

Speaking to residents who had turned up for the campaign, Deputy Director at the Department, Fikile Mokonoto, explained the reasons behind the annual campaign and its ultimate goal.

Mokonoto told residents that access to adequate sanitation is fundamental to personal dignity and security, social and psychological well-being, public health, poverty reduction, gender equality, economic development and environmental sustainability.

She said the campaign was therefore a plea by the Department to all the people in the country to assume responsibility for their health and hygiene.

“We have a responsibility to protect our families, therefore keeping hands clean is one of the most important steps we can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others. Many diseases and conditions are spread by not washing hands with soap and clean water”, she emphasised.

In the same vein, Mokonoto alerted the residents to the scarcity of water that the country was facing and urged them to use the resource sparingly when washing hands.

She said it was unnecessary to leave taps running while washing hands because this meant that water was wasted.

“It is important to wash your hands at critical times and this includes before you prepare food and after using a toilet,” she said, adding that many diseases were contracted as a result of a failure to adhere to these simple but helpful tips.

Mokonoto also made an impassionate plea to community members to take care of their toilets not to throw foreign objects into toilets as these were responsible for blockages in the network.

SOUTH AFRICA IS A WATER SCARCE COUNTRY





water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



“We plead with you to refrain from throwing things into toilets that should not go there. For instance, after haircuts, people throw hair into toilets and many times they also throw stones and dead fetuses,” she warned.

She added that the network blockages in Orange Farm were a direct result of this conduct.

Chairperson of the local water and sanitation forum, Selby Ramolaise, said the sanitation campaign was at the centre of fighting a myriad of diseases and most importantly the invisible coronavirus.

Ramolaise echoed Mokonoto’s water conservation efforts, saying as a sign of water-scarcity, the country was heavily reliant on the neighbouring Lesotho for water supply.

He said even though they were encouraging the community to wash hands, it was essential that this was done in a manner that showed responsibility and not abuse the limited water resources.

KHULEKANI NGCOBO

SOUTH AFRICA IS A WATER SCARCE COUNTRY



Department of Water and Sanitation South Africa



DWS RSA