



water & sanitation

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Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS promotes toilets and hygiene awareness in Thembisile Hani and Dr JS Moroka Local Municipalities

28 November 2024

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) Mpumalanga Provincial Operations conducted a public education awareness campaign to emphasize the importance of proper toilet use and handwashing practices in celebration of *World Toilet Day*. The campaign took place in Kwaggafontein C, Thembisile Hani Local Municipality, and Siyabuswa D, Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality, on 27 and 28 November 2024.

The activities included community engagements at the Thembisile Hani Local Municipality offices and the Siyabuswa Retail Centre, along with household visits to demonstrate proper toilet cleaning techniques. These visits aimed to spread the message of maintaining clean and healthy toilets within households. Participating families received cleaning hampers to kick-start their efforts.

Thembisile Hani Local Municipality's awareness roadshow, led by MMC for Technical Services, Councillor Malekane, introduced a new water and sanitation ambassador, Mr. Given Sithole. He played a key role in educating his community on the importance of clean toilets and hand hygiene to prevent the spread of germs and diseases.

The awareness activities included community engagement at the Thembisile Hani Local Municipality offices and at Siyabuswa Retail Centre in Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality, and house visits to show people how to clean and keep their toilets clean, and spread the message of clean toilets in the households. The households were gifted cleaning hampers as a start-up to keeping their toilets clean and healthy.

The Thembisile Hani Local Municipality awareness roadshow was led by the MMC Technical Services Cllr Malekane and unearthed a new water and sanitation ambassador, Given Sithole who took over the educational programme and educated his community of the importance of keeping toilets clean and healthy and the importance of washing hands after using the toilet to prevent the spread of germs and diseases.

"Fellow community members, let us take good care of our toilets. As this year's *World Toilet Day* theme reminds us, '*Toilet – A Place for Peace*', we should strive to create and maintain clean, functional, and peaceful toilet environments,"

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stated Mr. Sithole. "Avoid disposing of nappies, sanitary pads, used condoms, old clothes, or animal skins in toilets. Let us always use toilet paper and ensure our facilities remain clean and healthy."

World Toilet Day is commemorated annually on 19 November to highlight the global sanitation crisis affecting billions and inspire action to address these challenges. Poor sanitation impacts critical developmental aspects such as gender equality, health, the environment, and nutrition. The theme for *World Toilet Day 2024*, 'Toilet – A Place for Peace', underscores the risks to sanitation posed by conflict, climate change, disasters, and neglect. It calls for investments and governance improvements to ensure sanitation services are resilient, accessible, and effective.

The Siyabuswa campaign, led by Ms. Lomina Shongwe and Ms. Sandra Ndlovu, involved engaging community members with water-saving tips and pamphlets on proper toilet hygiene. Pamphlets were also distributed to passing vehicles on the main road outside the retail centre.

As South Africa faces significant water scarcity, residents were reminded of the importance of conserving water and using it wisely. The initiative aimed to encourage communities to adopt water-saving practices and contribute to water security while maintaining clean, safe, and healthy sanitation facilities.

The *World Toilet Day 2024* campaign continues to stress the importance of sanitation in ensuring public health, environmental sustainability, and a more equitable, peaceful world.

Themba Khoza

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