



INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS Mpumalanga and Victor Khanye Local Municipality celebrate World Toilet Day in Botleng extension 6

24 November 2025

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) Mpumalanga Provincial Operations, in partnership with the Victor Khanye Local Municipality, marked World Toilet Day on 19 November 2025 with a vibrant community event at the Botleng Extension 6 Community Hall.

Held under the theme “Sanitation in a Changing World” and the tagline “We’ll Always Need a Toilet”, the event highlighted the urgency of strengthening sanitation systems amidst ageing infrastructure, climate change and rising demand. The theme underscores a simple but powerful truth: no matter how the world evolves, access to safe, dignified sanitation remains a constant human need—and a fundamental human right.

World Toilet Day, commemorated globally every year on 19 November, aims to inspire action toward achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6.2, which calls for access to adequate and equitable sanitation for all by 2030. Poor sanitation affects health, gender equality, environmental protection and nutrition, making awareness and behavioural change essential to driving long-term sustainable development.

Addressing the community, Ms Dudu Sifunda, Head of Operations for DWS Mpumalanga, emphasised the importance of continuous education on water and sanitation. She highlighted simple but lifesaving hygiene practices such as handwashing, the proper use and care of toilets, and the protection of sanitation infrastructure. Ms Sifunda also reiterated the need for water conservation in South Africa and encouraged the reuse of grey water and rainwater harvesting.

Delivering the keynote address, Acting Executive Mayor of Victor Khanye Local Municipality, Cllr T. Malomane, reaffirmed the municipality’s commitment to restoring dignity through improved access to clean water and sanitation.

“Water is life and sanitation is dignity. As government, our commitment is to give people the dignity they deserve, especially those who were previously disadvantaged,” he said. “Let us use water wisely and protect the infrastructure that enables these essential services.”

He urged community members to safeguard municipal infrastructure from vandalism and encouraged attendees to share the information they learned with others in the community.

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Representing the Mpumalanga Department of Education, Ms Mahlaule stressed the impact of sanitation on learning outcomes, noting that inadequate facilities undermine learners' concentration, confidence and overall performance.

The Department of Health delivered an engaging health talk, outlining common water-borne diseases and demonstrating proper handwashing techniques to prevent the spread of germs and infections.

Adding colour and energy to the event, learners from Vezimfundo, Mdumiseni, and Sizuzile Primary Schools, as well as Boikemesetso Child Care Centre, delivered creative performances promoting sanitation, hygiene and water conservation. To reinforce these messages, DWS handed over cleaning and hygiene hampers to the schools and centre as a gesture of appreciation.

The event was further uplifted by the presence of Miss Teenager South Africa finalist, Thandolwethu Mnisi, a proud resident of the municipality. She encouraged young people to champion sanitation and responsible water use, reminding them that change begins with informed action.

World Toilet Day in Botleng Extension 6 served not only as a celebration, but as a rallying call for communities, schools and stakeholders to work together in protecting public health, preserving water resources and ensuring dignified sanitation for all.

Themba Khoza

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