



INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS partners with Rand Water and Brandscapers Africa to drive water conservation awareness in Soweto

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The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), in partnership with Rand Water and Brandscapers Africa, participated in the Drop-by-Drop Outreach Programme held in Orlando West, Soweto in Gauteng from 30 to 31 October 2025. The initiative forms part of a strategic, community-based campaign aimed at promoting water-wise practices and inspiring behavioural change among residents.

DWS Gauteng Provincial Head, Mr Justice Maluleke, delivered a keynote address, reaffirming the department's commitment to working closely with partners to advance water conservation, responsible water use, and environmental protection.

The programme was designed to raise public awareness around water saving, pollution prevention, and recycling, while empowering communities to take proactive steps in protecting local water resources. The initiative therefore sought to engage residents directly on how they can contribute to improving water reliability and sustainability in their own neighbourhoods.

Mr Maluleke emphasised the importance of community participation in addressing the city's water challenges. "Bringing this programme to Soweto allows us to speak directly with residents about fixing leaks, reporting faults, and using water efficiently. These small actions can collectively make a major difference," he said.

He further highlighted South Africa's growing water scarcity, noting that the country is one of the driest in the world. "Our rainfall patterns differ greatly from those of other regions and are worsening due to climate change. While the global average water use per person is about 173 litres a day, South Africans use roughly 300 litres, much of it lost through leaks and careless consumption," he explained.

On Friday, 31 October, the outreach continued with a clean-up operation along the Klip River, encouraging environmental stewardship and the protection of freshwater ecosystems. Teams

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also conducted door-to-door engagements in Orlando West, distributing educational materials and collecting feedback from households on water-related issues through a short questionnaire. The information gathered will assist the Rand Water Water-Wise Team in developing tailored solutions and improving future community support programmes.

Mr Maluleke urged residents, including those receiving free basic water or living in informal settlements, to use water responsibly and avoid illegal connections. “We call on all South Africans to take ownership of their water use. Responsible consumption not only conserves this scarce resource but also helps reduce household water bills,” he said.

The DWS reiterated that partnerships such as the Drop-by-Drop Outreach Programme are vital in building public awareness, strengthening collaboration with stakeholders, and securing South Africa’s long-term water sustainability.

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