



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA ADVISORY

Department of Water and Sanitation in the Western Cape celebrates Global Handwashing Day through a door-door campaign

13 October 2015

In preparation for the Global Handwashing Day celebrations, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in the Western Cape will educate the community of Worcester about the importance of washing hands. The Global Handwashing Day is celebrated annually on the 15th of October. This is a global call to help improve the health of children which in turn improves their school attendance and academic performance. Global Handwashing Day (GHD) campaign is aimed at motivating and mobilising millions around the world to wash their hands with soap to reduce childhood mortality rates related to respiratory and diarrhoeal diseases.

The aim of the campaign is to:

- *Promote a balanced national handwash programming framework,*
- *Raise awareness of handwashing with soap as the most effective and inexpensive way to reduce the spread of disease,*
- *Reduce government expenditure on health (when less people contract communicable diseases, less money will be used by government to provide free vaccines),*
- *Support inter-sectoral approaches,*
- *Support community management through effective decentralisation,*
- *Also focusing on sanitation, water quality and hygiene at the household level.*

Officials from the department working with community members will visit houses in New Mandela Settlement in Zwelethemba, educating people about the importance of washing hands.

Details of the campaign:

Date: 14-15 October 2015

Venue: New Mandela Settlement, Zwelethemba, Worcester

Time: 11h00-13h00

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

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