



INTERNET ARTICLE

Alternative Sanitation technologies and methods for dignified sanitation

14 May 2014

As part of the Sanitation Week celebrations, Minister of Water and Sanitation Ms Nomvula Mokonyane and Deputy Minister Pamela Tshwete embarked on a tour in various areas of KwaZulu-Natal province to explore the various methods and technologies used to better the conditions of sanitation services in the area.

The tour kicked off with a visit to the Besters Pit Emptying Project at the Besters informal settlement where employed members of the community are trained in health and safety to manually remove human waste and waste water from Ventilated Improved Pit Latrines (VIPs). This is done to minimise the risk of spreading sanitation related diseases.

Mr. Dumisani Majazi of Abaphumeleli Trading 1133 CC, a company contracted by the eThekweni Municipality to carry out the project said that since they became part of the intervention in 2008 they have not encountered any incidents related to the health of the employees as the employees go through health and safety training and also receive injections to prevent illnesses such as Typhoid and Hepatitis B, before they start working on site.

Minister Mokonyane, who believes that decent sanitation is not about having a toilet that flushes or require the use of water, commended the eThekweni Municipality for the initiative and encouraged community members to work together with the Municipality by taking care of the facilities and not throw in alien objects as that could compromise the safety and sustainability of the facilities.



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

The delegation proceeded to the Inanda Community Ablution Blocks which consisted of two modified shipping containers for both males and females. Serving 50 households, the facility has showers, toilets, basins, urinals for males and external laundry troughs. The project has also employed local residents to look after the facility by cleaning it frequently.

Residents in the Inanda area expressed their satisfaction with the intervention, saying that they used to travel long distances to fetch water and do their laundry but now they do it at the comfort of their familiar streets.

Zandile Magwaza, a resident who says she has spent all her life living in that area, said the toilet and showers came at the right time as that was when they were really struggling with water and most of the households holds didn't have toilets. "There's always a security guard, which makes it safe all the time; I'm very happy and relieved", Magwaza said.

Delegates concluded the tour by visiting the Newlands/Mashu Research Facility where they were introduced to alternative sanitation technologies and methods. Methods used included a plant to process sewerage from 84 households without the use of electricity and chemicals.

Mokonyane said that she likes the fact these alternative methods and interventions are not only game changers in supply of water and sanitation but also contribute immensely to employment creation for the locals.

Adding that what is more significant is that people are educated about the use of these technologies and methods to ensure sustainability.

Maduvha Maseda

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

For more information contact: Sputnik Ratau, DWS Director, Media



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Liaison: 0828742942

**For media releases, speeches and news visit the Water and Sanitation portal
at: www.dws.gov.za**