



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **DWS in Northern Cape take Global Handwashing Day campaign to pre-schools**

14 October 2016

As part of the Global Handwashing Day campaign (GHWD) the Northern Cape Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) visited three pre-schools in Sol Plaatje where they were taught about the importance of handwashing with soap.

This campaign is aimed to motivate and mobilize millions around the world to improve their handwashing habits by washing their hands with soap at critical moments every day. This year, it will be observed on Saturday, 15 October 2016 under the theme “**Make Handwashing a Habit**”.

Teachers and learners from Ebenezer, Saint Peters and Loyiso pre-schools welcomed this campaign and participated by listening attentively.

According to the Coordinator of Global Handwashing in the Northern Cape, Mr Gavin January washing hands with soap every time is very important to reduce changes of spreading diseases to those around you.

“After using the toilet or playing with animals, before eating or handling food, before feeding babies, after sneezing can spare you illness you must wash your hands,” he added.

Furthermore, he said the Northern Cape Region has scheduled other school visits and door to door awareness activities for next week and will visit the communities of Petrusville, Prieska, Kalksloot, Dakota Weg in Upington and Seoding in Kuruman.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, food borne disease outbreaks are spread by contaminated hands and researchers estimate that if everyone routinely washed their hands, a million deaths a year could be prevented.

It is also estimated that washing hands with soap and running water could reduce diarrhea disease-associated deaths by up to 50%.

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