



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS's water and sanitation awareness campaign wins over young ambassadors

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The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) targeted young minds in Olievenhout in Tshwane to become ambassadors of water and sanitation when they visited the Phelenah Primary School on Tuesday, 07 March 2017.

The visit, which forms part of the department's awareness campaign, is a drive to heighten awareness across the age divide about the importance of saving water and hygiene during the month of March.

The campaign entailed teaching the learners about different types of toilets that are used in the country and how to keep these important facilities clean as well as when and how to wash their hands.

An 11-year old Grade 6 learner at the school, Karabo Matokotsi, said the awareness campaign had made her alive to many things related to hygiene of the toilets and how to take care of them. She vowed to take the message home and inform her parents and siblings about the importance of hygiene.

"As a learner my role is to take what we have learned today at home. Toilets are important and we should take care of them. If we fail to do this there is a chance of getting diseases such as TB and we may even die from these diseases," said the young Karabo.

Another learner, a Grade 5 Rolivuwa Nkutha, said what was important for him was that toilets should not be used as dustbins where people throw all sorts of foreign objects. He said this could lead to toilets to clog and result in the overflow onto the surface of the sewerage.

The germ-phobic Rolivuwa said the people should wash their hands before and after eating, advising that young people should not put coins in their mouths because the coins are handled by a different people.

He said: "Shaking hands, handling your friend's hair and touching animals can lead to spreading of germ and so it is important that we wash our hands. The same should apply after using toilets. Sickesses such as cholera kill people and it is up to us to make sure that we don't die by washing our hand regularly."

The department's official, Lungile Zulu, encouraged the learners to practice proper hygiene by using soap when washing their hands and to carry squeeze bottles to school so that they can save water.

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