



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Greenfields community educated about the importance of toilets

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The Residents of Greenfields in Thokoza, City of Ekurhuleni admitted that they only thought of a toilet as a place of indignity, the place you only think of when nature calls. But after attending the World Toilet Day Campaign held in the Greenfield Community hall their attitude had changed completely, they now appreciate the importance of toilets and good sanitation practice.

The event was held as a partnership between the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) and the City of Ekurhuleni's water and sanitation department aimed at raising awareness of the daily struggle for proper sanitation that a staggering 2.5 billion people face across the globe. The theme for this year is "Sanitation for Health and Dignity".

World Toilet Day is a United Nations recognised event, observed annually on 19 November. It focuses on stimulating dialogue about sanitation and breaks the taboo around toilets and draw attention to the global sanitation challenge that still surrounds this issue.

During the awareness event, DWS gave a detailed presentation on the importance of toilets, water and sanitation related diseases and how to prevent them through good sanitation practices.

Ms Lungile Zulu, Chief Development Expert: Health and Hygiene from DWS pointed out that toilets are one of the most basic human rights and should always be well maintained to be usable and sustainable. She started by asking the community members who filled the Greenfields Community Hall these questions:

"Imagine a day without a toilet, what do you think will happen to us? Can anyone stay healthy without a toilet?"

There's nothing frustrating like not having a toilet or finding a toilet in a bad state when you want to relieve yourself. "Let us take good care of our lives by cleaning and maintaining our toilets in good state", she said.

The Manager for water and sanitation department from the City of Ekurhuleni, Pearl Lediga pleaded with the residents to abstain from throwing foreign objects such as rocks, tyres and rubbles in the sewer system.

"As the municipality, we have serious challenges of constant sewer blockages caused by community (Greenfields)", she said.

The event was concluded by a door to door education and awareness in order to minimise the water loss, reducing the demand of water and fight against the unnecessary wastage of Metro's Blue Drop Certified Water. The City of Ekurhuleni's water ambassadors and officials, DWS officials and the Ward Councillor distributed the blocks to over 100 households.

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