



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

The Department of Water and Sanitation celebrates World Toilet Day in Bitou Local Municipality

22 November 2016

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in partnership with the Bitou Local Municipality and the Breede Gouritz Catchment Management Area (BGCMA) on Friday 18th November 2016 celebrated the World Toilet Day in Plettenberg Bay.

The event was preceded by a two day door-to-door activation at both Qolweni and KwaNokuthula areas where community members were educated on how to take responsibility of their toilets. Tips on saving water were also distributed.

As part of its commitment, Bitou Local Municipality rebuilt 15 communal toilets that were vandalised, restoring dignity to at least 60 families. During the activation, toilets and taps in indigent households and communal toilets with minor defects were also fixed.

Councillor Xolani Matyile from Ward 2 in Qolweni says the campaign will go a long way. "We need activities like these in our communities. I believe that this community will look after the rebuilt toilets" said Matyile.

World Toilet Day is observed annually on the 19 November to raise awareness about the plight of those without proper sanitation and to urge governments across the globe to provide decent sanitation to its citizenry. United Nations announced that 19 November every year should be known as World Toilet Day.

This year's theme is "**Toilet and Jobs**". Deputy Mayor of Bitou Municipality, Mr. Euan Wildeman encouraged community members to stop vandalizing toilet facilities. "I urge you to help us achieve our goals and to improve sanitation by not vandalizing the facilities" said Wildeman.

Thembi Mthombeni, Water Sector Support Director from DWS commended the municipality's efforts of making sure that residents have dignified toilets. "Now that the Municipality has fixed vandalised toilets, yours is to look after them. Keeping your toilet clean needs a brush, water and soap" says Mthombeni.

The Department also recognised one household with the most hygienic and cleanest kept ablution facility in the area.

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

Western Cape Region

For more information contact Sputnik Ratau on 082 874 2942/Malusi Rayi: 083 320 1249

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