



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **War on Leaks Trainees Already Tackling Water Losses**

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The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has started with the roll-out of the “Drop-The-Block” campaign in the Northern Cape. The Drop-The-Block is an eco-friendly innovation of placing a block in a toilet tank/cistern to save water. It is designed to reduce potable water consumption by one litre per flush. On average, toilet flushing uses up to 31% of the overall household consumption, therefore making toilet flushing one of the highest consumers of water in the house.

The Drop-The-Block team, comprising of officials from DWS and trainees from the “War on Leaks” programme, launched the drop the block programme in Ipopeng and Vergenoeg. Once the block is installed, it requires no maintenance and allows the toilet to perform its primary function of waste disposal.

This water saving exercise will be rolled out to all the 5 District Municipalities in the Northern Cape. The objective is to distribute 300 000 blocks this year across the province effectively saving 300 000 litres of water per household.

In South Africa, the average water usage per household per day is way above the international average, at a staggering 253 litres per day compared with the international average of 173 litres per day.

The water use efficiency directorate in the Department of Water and Sanitation has identified a number of municipalities throughout the country to benefit from the Drop-The-Block exercise. In the Northern Cape a number of priority municipalities have been identified and include among others Sol Plaatjie, Dikgatlong, Joe Morolong, Nama Khoi and Emthanjeni. The municipalities are selected on the basis of households with cisterns bigger than 9 liters, communities with extreme cases of drought, municipalities with high water losses, households with high per capita water consumption and indigent communities who cannot afford to pay for water services.

Residents are requested to cooperate with the War on Leaks and Drop-The-Block officials.

**Amogelang Moholoeng**