



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Water wise primary school learners share tips on saving water

09 March 2017

A Grade 3 learner from Laerskool Die President in Germiston in Ekurhuleni, Ivan Nel, is a living testimony that South Africa's water crises coupled with the crippling drought knows no boundaries and certainly no age.

The young heart poured his feelings out during a water and sanitation campaign at his school on the 09th March 2017, which was jointly held by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) and the Ekurhuleni Metro Municipality.

The month of March has been designated as a Water Month and is celebrated throughout the country.

The campaign forms part of a series of activities that are held by the Department of Water and Sanitation in bid to sensitise young people across the country that they have vital role to play to save water.

The nine-year old made an impassionate appeal to his fellow learners and teachers to use water sparingly, citing the water crises playing itself out in Cape Town as an example of how dire the situation can turn.

"I listen to the news every day and that's how I know that there is shortage of water in Cape Town. In order to save water, I think the people of Cape Town must not bathe but rather take showers. They must also ensure that they close their taps tightly so that not a single drop of water is wasted," Ivan advised.

Anita Boucher, who is a Grade 4 learner at the same school, supplied handy tips to save water including using less water when washing dishes or cars. She also said hosepipes should not be used to water gardens.

Anita's feelings were echoed by Jason Du Plessis, who is a proud owner of a small piece of a vegetable garden at his home. Jason takes great pride in harvesting rain water to water his garden.

The Grade 6 learner said he uses a bucket to harvest rain water which he then uses to water his plants, urging other learners who have gardens at home not to use water from the taps but harvested water instead.

The school's principal, Sybrand Van Dyk, said they welcome the initiative to visit schools, praising the efforts of the department and the municipality as vital in reiterating saving water.

Van Dyk said the awareness campaign was uplifting and was a true investment in the youth.

"This campaign is important because it teaches kids about the multifaceted nature of water. If kids as young as these begin to understand the message of saving water, I think we would have done our work as adults," said Van Dyk.



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Making her plea to save water to the learners, DWS's Lungile Zulu, said learners should start saving water themselves at home and at school. She said learners should avoid drinking under a running tap but should rather use cups or squeeze bottles from which to drink.

Hosia Sithole