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INTERNET ARTICLE

Barberton community encouraged to continue saving water

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The community of Emjindini, Barberton, in the City of Mbombela Local Municipality has vowed to continue adhering to water saving measures to ensure that they do not run out of water supply.

They spoke in one voice during the water conservation awareness roadshow conducted by the Department of Water and Sanitation, City of Mbombela Local Municipality and Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency on Tuesday, 31 January 2017.

The Barberton area is one of those areas which experienced the hard knocks of drought with their main water supply source, the Lomati Dam drying up for the better part of last year.

The main purpose of the road show was to assist institutions to interact with consumers at a more relaxed way and engage them on issues of water conservation and demand management. The roadshow was aimed to inform and educate the public about the importance of saving water and the effects of drought, while also advocating for public's behavior change towards water usage.

Those in attendance were taught about better ways of saving water, such as using a shower instead of a bath or using "grey water" (used water from baths, washing machines and other safe sources) to flush toilets.



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The residents who came in large numbers also had the opportunity to raise different questions on water related issues and also urged the Municipality to distribute water cut-off times bulletins to the public.

A local resident, Sithembile Skhosane, expressed his excitement about the road show and the information it provided him, and vowed to share the water saving tips with at his household and educate his neighbours who could not make it to the educational campaign.

“This roadshow is one of the best things the municipality and its partners have done for us. As we are faced with drought in the country, I think the institutions are trying a lot to come up with ways to provide us with water. We saw boreholes being drilled in Barberton and now through this road show we are being taught on ways to save water. I am very thankful to the institutions for such an initiative and since I didn’t even have a bucket to collect rain water, getting this bucket now will make life very easy for me because I will be using the rain water to flush the toilet”, he said.

Another resident, Danisile Mlambo echoed Sithembile’s sentiments that the roadshow is important in reminding the community of the importance of saving the available water. She stated that the roadshow was an important and a great exercise because it teaches the community of different ways to save water and use the available water efficiently. She further requested that more such roadshows must be conducted frequently to ensure that community members are always reminded of using water wisely.



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