



water & sanitation

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INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS trains 17 volunteers as water conservation agents

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A group of seventeen volunteers from Kanana in Johannesburg showed their unwavering loyalty as agents of water conservation when they were trained as the implementers of the Drop the Block Programme on Wednesday, 01 February 2017.

The programme forms part of efforts of the Department of Water and Sanitation to save water use at the level of households by placing a green block into a cistern to reduce water consumption by two litres per flush.

Coming from different walks of life but united by a common purpose, the volunteers were excited at being part of the training, saying this was their small contribution to ensure that life continued as normal as possible even in the face of water challenges.

The programme's trainer on etiquette and distribution of the green block, Nomantambo Somaza, said it was important that the trainees were equipped with knowledge of how they should approach community members and make them understand the role of the green block in saving water.

"The volunteers are the face of the programme as they are the ones that interact with communities and it is therefore important that they possess the necessary skills of dealing with different situations," Somaza.

The skills imparted included how volunteers should conduct themselves as well as properly explaining to the public the need for the green block in saving water.

Somaza said the training was also meant to arm the volunteers with information to deal with misconceptions that the green block was explosive or that it contained dangerous chemicals that could be harmful to the public's health.

A volunteer in the programme, who is an unemployed mother of two, Pertunia Sebake, said taking part in the programme made her feel good as issues of water should now be taken seriously by everyone in the community.

She said: "This programme is not going to assist only us as volunteers but the community as a whole. So taking part in the programme is a contribution to our community. This is the least we can do. Taking part in this programme shows we care about the crises that our country is facing and we are willing to do something about it."

Sebake's sentiments were echoed by other volunteers who said they had a duty to ensure water was saved, emphasising that it was their civic duty to bring awareness to the public about the dire consequences of water shortages.

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