



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERENET ARTICLE

Joy and Fun as DWS Water Education Road Show Campaign end

31 March 2015

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) completed very successful four-day edutainment road shows in the most drought-affected areas of Kwazulu Natal.

The campaign started on the 27 March 2015 at Sundumbili Plaza, Mandeni municipality and was wrapped up at Isipingo Taxi Rank, eThekweni Metro on Monday, 30 March 2015. Other areas that were visited are Kwadukuza Taxi Rank, Umsunduze Taxi Rank, Kwamashu Shopping Centre, and Bridge City to name a few.

The taxi drivers, commuters and residents received fun lessons as the DWS brought along the cast from popular soapies (Generations, Isibaya, Zone 14 and Scandal) to put fire and lighten the campaign. The popular characters performed a play, bringing their audience to laughter, while at the same time passing the message of water conservation. The play proved effective, as was shown by the number of correct answers given when the cast led by Patrick Mofokeng (Mlungisi Ngema of Scandal) presented question and answer sessions. Those who gave accurate answers were rewarded with gift packages.

The road show was one of the ongoing education programmes which government use as a platform to constantly engage with the communities mostly affected by the drought in Kwazulu Natal. DWS's aim is to regularly educate and give full accurate information about the situation at hand. The campaigns also help to communicate the efforts government is putting to ensure that all are provided with portable water despite the drought.

The DWS also launched its annual National Water Week (NWW) on the 16th March 2015 in eMvutshane village, iLembe District in Kwazulu Natal. The area is among 10 drought-stricken districts that have been declared disaster areas by the KZN Provincial Government due to the devastating drought that is currently being experienced in the province. The aim of the launch in this area was to raise awareness on water shortages in main dams around the province and to bring forth interim measures that the department, together with the municipalities have implemented. The purpose is to prevent the crisis from escalating.

According to Logie Naidoo of eThekweni Municipality, illegal connections and leaks are major courses of water wastage in Durban. "Almost R3 million has been set aside to deal with the leaks and ageing infrastructure in eThekweni municipality and we believe that the project will help decrease the amount of water wasted," Naidoo said. He further said that there is a need to intensify education among people to understand water shortage and the importance of using it sparingly.

Hazelmere Dam water level continues to go down despite the drops of rain witnessed in the region during past few weeks. However, authorities are optimistic that they have the situation under control. Among the interim emergency intervention strategies to save water, is the construction of a new pipeline, which will pump water from Tongaat River to the Hazelmere Dam to ease the pressure to the North Coast residents.

DWS's KZN Chief Director, Ashley Starkey, said the launch of the National Water Week 2015 in the province is in line with the plans to develop a long term planning strategy for 2030. He



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further said illegal sand mining has an impact in water shortages and that the department is taking the matter seriously.

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