



INTERNET ARTICLE

World Toilet Day celebrated in Mamello

25 November 2015

The Community of Mamello, outside Vaal Marine under Midvaal Local Municipality admitted that they only thought of a toilet as a place of indignity, the place you only think of when nature calls. But after attending the World Toilet Day celebration event their attitude had changed completely, they now appreciate the importance of toilets and good sanitation practices.

*November 19th marked the annual World Toilet Day aimed at raising awareness of the daily struggle for proper sanitation that a staggering 2.5 billion people worldwide still face. The theme for this year is “**Better Sanitation for better Nutrition**”. It focuses on the link between sanitation and nutrition. Lack of access to clean drinking water and sanitation, along with the absence of good hygiene practices are among the underlying causes of poor nutrition.*

During the awareness event, the DWS Gauteng provincial office was supported by the provincial Department of Health who also wanted to raise awareness on water and sanitation related diseases and how to prevent them through good sanitation practices. The event also attracted a number NGO’s who commended the effort undertaken by both departments in educating the public about the importance of practicing of good sanitation.

Miss Nonceba Sineke from DWS pointed out that access to sanitation is one of the most basic human rights and toilets should always be well maintained to be usable and sustainable. She started by asking the community members who filled the Mamello Community Hall this question: “Imagine not having privacy when you need to relieve yourself; can anyone stay healthy without a toilet?”.

There’s nothing frustrating like not having a toilet or finding a toilet in a bad state when you want to relieve yourself. “Let us take good care of our lives by cleaning and maintaining our toilets in a good state”, she said.

More than 2000 young children die every day of diseases related to the spread of human waste. This can be minimized by good sanitation practice such as washing of hands after using a toilet. Miss Mary Madaure from the Department of Health presented on good hand washing techniques.

Lucky Makgarengi