



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### DWS, Sunlight partners to save water

19 March 2018

Water Month is celebrated annually during the month of March. This year Water Week falls on 18 – 24 March and is celebrated under the theme “*Access to safe water by 2030 – Possible through nature*”.

Due to its nature water cuts across sectors, therefore the onus does not just fall on government but all who use this precious resource to conserve it and use it responsibly. The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has already hosted a number of awareness campaigns all over Free State.

Water has no substitute and is the most important resource on earth. All plants, animals and human beings need water to survive. There are many other uses for water but consumption and hygiene are at the top of the list. DWS is constantly forming partnerships in order to further the message of water conservation all over the country.

DWS in partnership with Sunlight joined forces and together had an activation at Twin City Mall in Heidedal, Bloemfontein. The activation was a resounding success with hundreds of participants enjoying games, competitions as well as taking selfies at the Sunlight Selfie Booth. The participants also received gifts in the form of t-shirts, water bottles and buckets for their participation.

Communities have grown to appreciate water more than they did previously. The reason for this being that they were affected either directly or indirectly by the drought. The Western Cape is still experiencing a crippling drought that has seen dam levels delve below desired levels and forcing the communities to adapt in a way they have not done before. The reality of standing in long queues to receive water seeped into their lives at an alarming rapid rate.

The drought has made more and more people appreciate the importance of water. Even though some dam levels throughout the Free State has shown great improvement this does not mean that as a country we are out of the woods yet. Some of the dams such as Groothoek Dam which supplies Thaba Nchu do not supply as the levels have reached a perilous stage and there are many other dams that are below 20% in the Free State Province.

Responsibility for water conservation still falls on all who use and consume it regardless of water restrictions in place or not.

**Larry Crisp**