



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Officials take water conservation education to the people in Tsakane

22 March 2018

At the time when the country is experiencing the adverse effects of climate change, the protection of our water resources cannot be over emphasised. This was the overarching message during the education and awareness drive held at Tsakane Mall recently.

The interactive campaign was organised as a collaborative effort between the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) and the Department of Health which raised awareness around the importance of water, good health and hygiene practices as well as demonstrating the washing hands techniques.

The officials and the community members discussed and advised each other on the ways in which water can be conserved and exploring how deaths associated with poor hygiene such as Listeria outbreak can be minimised.

According to Precious Modise of DWS, the country is losing a lot of water through irresponsible water use, water leaks and burst pipes.

She argues that this can be minimise if citizens play their part in using water sparingly, fixing water leaks at homes and report burst pipes to the local authorities.

“Access to quality drinking water is everyone’s basic human right, but the onus is on us, the end-users, to become the custodians of this delicate resource”, said Modise.

She also encouraged the residents to re-use their grey water for other purposes such as watering the garden and flushing toilets.

Speaking to the crowd during the education and awareness campaign, Department of Health’s Environmental Health Practitioner, Ms Poppie Raphadu emphasised the importance of washing hands at critical times:

- Before eating or handling food;
- After using the toilet;
- Before feeding a baby;
- After changing a baby nappy; and
- Every time after coughing, sneezing, scratching yourself and handling pets.

“Washing hands frequently with soap, following these steps can prevent diseases and save many lives, added Poppie.

As the country will be celebrating National Water Week from the 18 – 24 March, various events will be held in different municipalities throughout the province to further engage citizens on the importance of water.

Lucky Makgarengi