



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Global Handwashing Campaign underway in Northern Cape

23 October 2017

The Global Handwashing Campaign is currently underway in the Northern Cape where the Department of Water and Sanitation is visiting various communities and schools. The campaign includes carrying out public demonstrations of how to wash hands with soap, door to door visits and distributing soap for placement in public, school and residential toilets as a means of encouraging all to wash hands with soap after using the toilet.

According to the Global Handwashing Campaign Coordinator in the Northern Cape; Gavin January, research done by the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, if everyone routinely washed their hands, a million deaths a year could be prevented; It further goes on to say that it is estimated that washing hands with soap and water could reduce diarrhoeal disease associated deaths by up to 50%.

“It is against this background that we are encouraging the washing of hands with soap after using the toilet; through this campaign we are saving lives. We have already visited for example Groenwater where one of the challenges raised by the school is that the borehole pump is broken, therefore it is a challenge to wash hands or maintain hygiene”.

Another school January says “with a similar challenge is the Badihile Primary School in Joe Morolong Municipality where they also reported a broken borehole. “We have advised the schools to fix the pumps as soon as possible as this is a health risk for the learners. We have further encouraged the schools to apply for rainwater harvesting tanks and use the water harvested for washing of hands instead”.

“When we visited the community of Groenwater, residents raised the issue of toilet pits that are full and they allege that the Honeysucker truck has been broken for some time now. The Department of Water and Sanitation will follow up with the Kgatelopele Municipality in an effort to resolve the challenge” January said.

This week the DWS will be visiting the Vlugfontein Primary School and thereafter the communities of Novalspond, Colesberg and Victoria West.



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The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in the Northern Cape in partnership with various schools and communities in the Province embarked on the Global Handwashing Campaign since 13 October 2017 and is expected to end by 30 October 2017.

End

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