



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

DWS - Cobra partnership empowers communities to be water-wise for water security in our water scarce country

10 July 2018

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) and Cobra hosted the Thembisile Hani Local Municipality water and sanitation forum training session at the Cobra factory in Krugersdorp on 10 July 2018.

DWS and Cobra, the company that manufactures taps and plumbing fittings for the local market, have joined hands to empower communities through the training of water and sanitation forums. The forums need to be water-wise and play a major role in water conservation to ensure that every drop counts in our water scarce country. This partnership clearly shows that public and private entities working together can ensure water security. Water is life and development relies mainly on water availability, so it is crucial that we all hold hands and work together for the benefit of the current and future generations.

The training involved a leak detection and leak fixing session, where the forum members were trained in fixing leaks, especially leaking taps as leaks are one of the major reasons for water losses in the country. As part of understanding the functionality of taps, the forum members were also taken on a tour of the Cobra plant to have a feel on how taps are manufactured and how they work.

The forum members were encouraged to share their newly acquired skills with community members to root out leaks in their communities and ensure that there is no unnecessary loss of precious water.

Water and sanitation forums are crucial as water and sanitation ambassadors in their communities. Water and Sanitation forums are meant to ensure government's direct interaction with different communities on issues that affect them, with partners coming out with agreed resolutions, reduce increasing number of service delivery protests that are mainly due to lack of communication and feedback, promote two way flow of information about provision of reliable water and sanitation services to the communities in terms of envisaged developments/plans, share challenges and progress, and create an enabling environment for stakeholder participation/engagement. The forums must ensure empowerment in water and



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sanitation governance and encourage the active participation of local community members on water and sanitation matters.

The forum chairperson, Mr Sthembiso Given Mahlangu thanked the Department and Cobra for the training and exposure. “The training was good and exposed us to a lot about water conservation and what we can do. This forum will bring change in our communities as well as the municipality, especially in relation to leakages which are wasting a lot of water. With the knowledge and expertise gained through this training, we will now be good ambassadors in our communities and help fix the challenges of leaks”, he said.

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