



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **Imbali Primary School learners to advocate for water conservation in their community**

11 March 2019

The learners of Imbali Primary School in Orange Farm, South of Johannesburg, raised their hands to be counted as advocates of efforts to conserve water when they joined the Gauteng's Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in celebrating the Water Month.

The Department held the celebration at the school to raise awareness around water issues, including saving the resource and fostering a culture of taking responsibility in the manner in which water is being used.

The celebration took place on Friday, 08 March 2019, under the theme: "Leaving no one behind; water for all".

Ms Lungile Zulu, who is DWS's Chief Development Expert: Health and Hygiene, said the theme of Water Month was about involving all people in the campaign to ensure that water resources were taken care of.

"Being here with the learners today is an indication that the Department is committed to working with everybody to realise the aim of saving water. Ours is a country that is facing a serious situation of water shortages and therefore everybody is critical to saving water," said Ms Zulu.

She said it was vital that from an early age children learnt about conserving not only water but also protecting the environment and look after sanitation so that the pollution of water resources did not take place.

She said: "We cannot isolate the issue of water from other issues that relate to the environment. What we do in our environment has an impact on our water resources and therefore need to look at these issues in a holistic manner."

Grade 7 learner, Moakatsi Zikalala said she was appreciative that the Department had chosen her school to be part of the Water Month, adding that now that they have learnt about the importance of saving water, they would do whatever they could to educate the community.

Another Grade 7 learner, Mellisa Chuma, concurred with his schoolmate, saying all learners of the school should teach other learners from local schools and members of the community about the importance of saving water.

"We use water for everything. For us to be clean and for making our homes places to live in we must use water. We must play a role to see to it that we do not waste water," urged Mellisa.

Chairperson of the Orange Farm Water and Sanitation Community Forum, Mr Selby Ramolaise, applauded the Department for raising water conservation and especially for involving the learners. She reiterated that it was through partnerships that the messages of conservation water could find resonance with communities.



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He said: “The Department will never be able to solve the issue of saving water if it worked alone. To be effective, it needs to have partners and schools such as ours are partners that can help the Department because at the end of the day shortages of water affect all of us.”

**Hosia Sithole**