



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS and CoT observe water week by taking fifty learners to water purification works

20 February 2019

The Gauteng Provincial Office of the Department of Water and Sanitation had an early start to the Water Week celebrations when it joined hands with the City of Tshwane after taking a group of fifty learners to a tour of the Temba Purification Works.

The tour, which saw learners from nine different primary schools in Soshanguve, took place on Wednesday, 20 February 2019.

The Water Week focuses its attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources.

Taking place under the theme: "Leaving no one behind; Water for All", the week will be celebrated across the country to ensure that everyone has access to safe water by 2030 while endeavouring to protect the environment.

DWS's Water Sector Support Chief Development Officer, Mr Aifheli Makumbane, described the tour as an eye-opener for the learners to get to understand the process of purifying water so that they became activist in their communities.

Mr Makumbane added: "Children are very important stakeholders in imparting critical messages to their families and the community in general. We are doing this tour fully aware that what they see here will have an impact on them and that they are highly likely to spread the messages of ensuring that our water is free from pollution."

Ms Refiloe Monkwe, who is a Water Conservation Office at the City of Tshwane, said they went to schools throughout the year and chose learners that would participate in the National Water Week Competition.

Ms Monkwe said they teach learners about many aspects of water, including conserving the resource and how it is purified.

"Towards the celebration of the National Water Week we take learners that we have taught throughout the year to the purification works to see practically how water is purified so that they tell their parents the work involved in purifying water," Ms Monkwe said.

She refer to the learners as agents in getting their parents to realise the importance of paying for water bills, adding that the grade 6s curriculum entailed the purification of water and that this would assist them in their studies.

One of the teachers who was part of the tour, Mr George Maenetja from Lindelani Primary School, commended the tour, saying it would go a long way in ensuring that learners got to know early on about the dangers of polluting water resources.

"This will ensure that learners know how expensive it is to purify water and to then work with their peers and families to make sure that contamination of water does not happen," Mr Maenetja said.



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A grade 6 learner from Rivoringo Primary School, Ofentse Mphago, said the tour was worthwhile to her and other learners as they did not know practically how the water was purified. Ofentse pledged to tell others in her community about how expensive it was to purify water.

Mduduzi Mashabane from Nchunhako Primary Schools said sometimes people did not take the issue of water conservation seriously as they easily forgot that there was no life without water.

He said throwing foreign objects into water resources affected the process of purification as it becomes slow and very expensive.

“My role now is to go out tell community members, especially my family not to pollute water as we are nothing without it,” concluded Mduduzi.

Hosia Sithole