

Press Release

Attention: All News Editors
For Immediate Release
Date: 23 March 2007

Gauteng Provincial Sanitation Week Event

The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, Department of Health and Mogale City Local Municipality will be hosting the Gauteng Provincial Sanitation celebrations at 10h00 in Magaliesburg on 28 March 2007. This is the first time that the Provincial Sanitation will be hosted by the West Rand region,

The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) proudly celebrated its first National Sanitation Week during 06 – 10 March 2007. The celebrations were the first ever sanitation week celebrations in the world. South Africa celebrates its second National Sanitation Week from 26 – 30 March 2007. These celebrations form part of the international campaign to place water, sanitation and good hygiene issues in the public consciousness

This international awareness campaign which is held annually in South Africa and across the globe emanates from the Dakar Statement as was adopted by the Global WASH forum in 2004; Senegal Dakar Sanitation and hygiene week is one of the prioritized focus areas listed on the Dakar Statement that are perceived to be practical actions to achieve the Millenium Development Goals on water, sanitation and human settlement.

The main objectives of sanitation and hygiene week celebrations are to raise the profile of sanitation, health and hygiene to the community. To increase the importance of the sanitation week, promote sanitation best practices, promote innovative approaches on how the sector (Water and Sanitation) can accelerate the implementation of the programme.

The provincial sanitation celebrations are aimed at creating awareness about the importance of sanitation. The event will also be preceded by a week-long awareness campaign about water and sanitation in Schools around the Mogale City Local Municipality, the directorate: water and sanitation has organized a one day exhibition at the market hall.

The rural sanitation project will be officially launched by the Executive Mayor Koketso Calvin Seerane on 28 March 2007; this official launch indicates the focus given to rural areas by all three spheres of government with regard to provision of water and sanitation and the total eradication of the bucket system in South Africa. There could be no better place to celebrate the sanitation week than on this day.

The Executive Mayor Koketso Calvin Seerane will deliver a keynote address to the rural community members. Other high profile dignitaries including, Executive Mayors

of West Rand District Municipality and the Director General DoH will attend.

About 2500 community members from the West Rand region are expected at the celebrations.

For more information contact Tebogo Malekutu on (011) 951 2305.