



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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World Environmental Health Day celebrated

Statistics from the Department of Health showed that many children and adults are suffering from diseases, such as diarrhoea, which can be easily prevented or cured, but sometimes result in very sad consequences.

To address this problem, the Environmental Health Practitioners (EHPs) of the Garden Route District Municipality's (GRDM) Klein Karoo municipal health office developed a drama production aimed at creating awareness among community members, especially school children.

The aim of the drama production was to:

- promote good food safety practices;
- educate learners and the community, on how germs and infections are transmitted;
- improve hygiene behaviour; and
- prevent the spread of diarrhoeal and other hygiene-, sanitation- and water related diseases in communities.

A local actor and four (4) peer educators were approached to assist with the performance. The drama piece was also developed in commemoration of World Environmental Health Day, on 26 September 2018, themed – "Food Security and Sustainability".

On 24 and 25 September 2018, the drama production was performed respectively in Hoeko (Ladismith area) and in Dysseisdorp. Approximately 216 households were reached through the initiative. Educators and community leaders were impressed by the informative messages that were conveyed. The actors

demonstrated the relationship between good hygienic practices and health status towards a positive impact in community health and quality of life.

According to the organisers of the events, the initiative surely increased the self-esteem of community members, promoted health and hygiene awareness practices and empowered the community with knowledge, in order to take responsibility for their own health and life.

The drama production forms part of an ongoing health and hygiene education programme performed by the GRDM municipal health section.

Images & captions



Actors and Environmental Health officials with some of the community members from Hoeko(Ladismith) who attended the information session.



Environmental Health Practitioners, Mr Willie Plaatjies(far left) and Mr Desmond Pausse (second from left) with the teachers, actors and some of the community members from Dysseisdorp.



Mr Desmond Pause, Manager Municipal Health: Klein Karoo (left) with the Peer Educators who performed in the drama production.

ENDS

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