

WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DAY CELEBRATIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Whereas the International Federation of Environmental Health aims to provide a focal point for national organisations of professionals, whose concern is the care of the environment in the interest of public health, the IFEH at its annual meeting of the council of the Federation in Indonesia declared the 26th September as the foundational World Environmental Health Day.

Ever since this declaration, Environmental Health Practitioners and other public members around the world have been celebrating this day in different ways. In South Africa the South African Institute of Environmental Health is the affiliated body of professionals to the IFEH and has celebrated the World Environmental Health Day in different ways since 2011.

Some of the activities undertaken by Environmental Health Practitioners in South Africa include the following:

Kwa-Zulu Natal Province

In uGu District Municipality (KZN) after noting concerns from the social media about alleged unsafe manufacturing of certain fake foods in South Africa the EHP's established three (3) Integrated Compliance and Regulatory forums in different local municipalities. In commemoration of the WEHD EHP's and other officials that form the forums took to the shops to conduct investigations in the said allegations. These blitz campaigns were carried out on the 06, 19 and 26 September 2018.



By V. Manawer

Limpopo Province

Good food safety is essential to ensure that the food eaten by consumers is safe. Poor hygiene procedures in food premises can put consumers at risk which may result in harmful germs that cause food poisoning to spread very easily and there is always a need to make sure that food poisoning is prevented.

Environmental Health Practitioners throughout Limpopo province embarked on joint operations conducting inspections in food premises during September month as a way of commemorating World Environmental Health Day.

The main purpose was to ensure food premises were selling sound and correct labelled food in order to prevent food borne diseases and illnesses that are a burden on public health and contribute significantly to the cost of health care.

Unsound and wrongly labelled foodstuff were confiscated and disposed of safely at a landfill site.



By D. Nematikonde

Eastern Cape Province

Chris Hani District Municipality

Environmental Health Day which was celebrated in the Chris Hani District Municipality on 20th September 2018 at Enoch Mgijima Local Municipality at Indoor Sport Centre, Queenstown.

Target group/area

This year Chris Hani District Municipality has identified Queenstown as an area with the highest numbers of food handling premises within the district. While the whole district could be exposed to unsafe food the town with the highest number of food handling premises have great potential of selling unsafe food to their customers.

It is against this background that Enoch Mgijima Local Municipality has been a focal point on how to reduce exposure due to food contamination thus preventing food poisoning and occurrence of food born related outbreaks. All formal food premises representatives were invited to this event.

Purpose of the Event

- To raise awareness to food handlers with regards to diseases associated with food products.
- To ensure that the food premises operate in a safe and healthy environment in line with the legislation.
- To capacitate food handlers on health-related matters, legislation and food safety.
- To improve some of the challenges that might have an impact on poor/inadequate food handling.

- To prevent occurrence of food poisoning, outbreak of communicable diseases and promote good health to the customers.

Resolutions

- It was resolved that Chris Hani District Municipality: MHS together with relevant stakeholders need to conduct continuous Operation Blitz/Gqogqa on the food premise, quarterly.
- Chris Hani District Municipality: MHS together with relevant stakeholders to partner on raising awareness campaigns for Hawkers and Spaza Shops.
- Formulate or revive the food control forum with all the relevant stakeholders.
- Visibility to attend to complaints by EHPs and EHAs.

See attached Photos below A:

Program Director: Mrs.V.Yabo



Purpose of the day: Mr.S.Vellem

Food Related legislation: Ms.Z. Cuba (EHP)



Delegations from food premises food.

At the exhibition tables EHPs explaining the 5 Keys to safer food.

Joe Gqabi District Municipality

Target group/area & Purpose

As an initiative above; Joe Gqabi District Municipality hosted Environmental Health Day Build up Event grounding for the National event. The Joe Gqabi District Municipality WEHD event was conducted on 13 September 2018 venue being at Walter Sisulu Local Municipality in Maletswai Area.

The build-up programme for the event commenced in July 2018, the programme aimed at reaching all food handlers throughout the district to empower them through educational awareness on food safety issues. All Environmental Health Practitioners throughout the district visited food premises in both urban and rural areas within the district. Risk analysis for food premises was conducted; closure or prohibition notices were issued to premise's owners where there was a significant risk to human health identified. Noncompliance notices with precise recommendations were issued, as a corrective measure, where identified threats to food safety.

Schools learners developed **posters, debates, stage play and rhymes on food quality control and sustainability**. The schools competed against in each other on posters and drama. The aim of the poster is to improve learner's engagement, understanding and enthusiasm on food quality control programs. The posters will be laminated and remain the property of the school and the District Municipality; it will be used for community awareness and training programs.

The event was honoured by Politian's from the local and district municipalities and by our Traditional Leaders. Government departments from various sections and community members attended the event. Department of Education gave a message of support and Walter Sisulu School learners were our honoured guests to entertain an audience of plus minus 600 people.

See attached below as Annexure B



Politicians and management of JG food

School Pupils doing presentation on 5 keys for safer food



CHDM Representative doing support presentation

School pupils dance presentation

Alfred Ndzo District Municipality

BRIEF ON BUILD-UP WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DAY COMMEMORATION

03 TO 09 SEPTEMBER 2018

Area	Ward	Activity Conducted
1. Dumsi Location	Ward 02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of business premises <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dumsi Discount - Dumsi Supermarket - Mhlayivayo Store • Evaluation of Dumsi ECDC • Evaluation of Dumsi SPS • Food Safety Awareness was conducted to Service Providers catering for the Programme and Monitoring of Food Handlers.
2. Dinwayo Location	Ward 06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of business premises <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Paradise Store -Ukabi Store -Ncedanani Store -Mamduma Store -Lonwabo Store • Evaluation of Mathubeni Clinic • Evaluation of Mthukukazi SPS • Food Safety Awareness was conducted to Service Providers catering for the Programme and Monitoring of Food Handlers • Service Provider did not have COA but she applied for COA
3. Mabhudu Location	Ward 09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of business premises <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Lindokuhle Store -Eyethu Store -Siyabonelela • Evaluation of Siyakhulisa Pre-School • Evaluation of Damba SPS • Food Safety Awareness was conducted to Service Providers catering for the Programme and Monitoring of Food Handlers • Service Provider did not have COA but she applied for COA
4 Tonti Location	Ward 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of Thandabantu Store • Evaluation of Gwebindlala SSS • Evaluation of Wayo SPS • Food Safety Awareness was conducted to Service Providers catering for the Programme and Monitoring of Food Handlers was done
5. Matshona Location	Ward 06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of business premises <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Kwa-Mazulu Store -Matshona trade/Gcodi -Jikamntu store • Evaluation of Mazakhele SPS

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Safety Awareness was conducted to Service Providers catering for the Programme and Monitoring of Food Handlers • Service Provider had CoA
6. Ntshentshe Location		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring of Health Care Risk Waste at the Clinic • Monitoring of waste management in a Clean Up Campaign • Gardening and tree planting • Food Safety Awareness was conducted to Service Providers catering for the Programme and Monitoring of Food Handlers • Service Provider had CoA
7. Mnceba Location		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mnceba Hall • Elukhanyisweni Store • Eskwaxeni Store • Food Safety Awareness was conducted to Service Providers catering for the Programme and Monitoring of Food Handlers • Service Provider had CoA

Challenges

- Foreign Nationals refusing to abide to Legislations governing Food Premises
- Schools get to reject EHPs for normal routine but lots of gaps and challenges like this procuring from Foreign National would have been discouraged long ago
- There are shops that practice decanting of food items from original packages
- There are no funds allocated for renovations in Pre-Schools.

See attached photos below:



Delivery of education material to schools & community Overcrowded classroom



The latrine facilities are very dilapidated

Indoor play area also used as a kitchen

OR. Tambo District Municipality held an event to celebrate WEHD on the 27th September 2018 at Lusikisiki College, Ingquza Hill Local municipality.

Purpose

To ensure that food is safe to eat in order to protect the consumer.

Training of meal servers by Environmental Health Services in schools is more on food safety and control. More than 100 meal servers were trained from different schools for the Ingquza Hill Local municipality. The program covered many topics related to Environmental Health, with emphasis on Global Food safety and sustainability.

Target group/area

Environmental Health Practitioners conducted operation khusela on the 26th September 2018 to all shops both Flagstaff and Lusikisiki. During operation khusela EHPs identified three food premises (retailers) and initiated a competition for those food premises that were more complying than others to acknowledge their progress in terms of food safety regulations. The food premises participated in the competition were Boxer Supercity, Shoprite Plaza and Spar all in Lusikisiki town. During the awarding ceremony the first price went to Shoprite Plaza, followed by Boxer Supercity and Spar received the third place.

Three kitchens (Zanokhanyo S.P.S, Gunyeni J.S.S and Khotso J.S.S) from different schools also formed part of the competition but they were competing against each other.

Before choosing the winner, all competitors were inspected and educated on food safety and sustainability. Khotso J.S.S. chosen as the best suited kitchen to win the competition

See photos Attached as annexure D:



EHP conducting training on Food Safety to meal servers 1st Price winner, Shoprite plaza manager

Khotso J.S.S Kitchen

Before intervention



Before intervention



Khotso J.S.S Kitchen

After intervention



After intervention



Winning school kitchen

The province appreciated all municipalities that observed this imported day hoping that all next year will observe it.

By S. Vellem

Conclusion

Many more municipalities in South Africa celebrated the World Environmental Health day however and they could all tell a progressive story in improving food safety in the Country.