



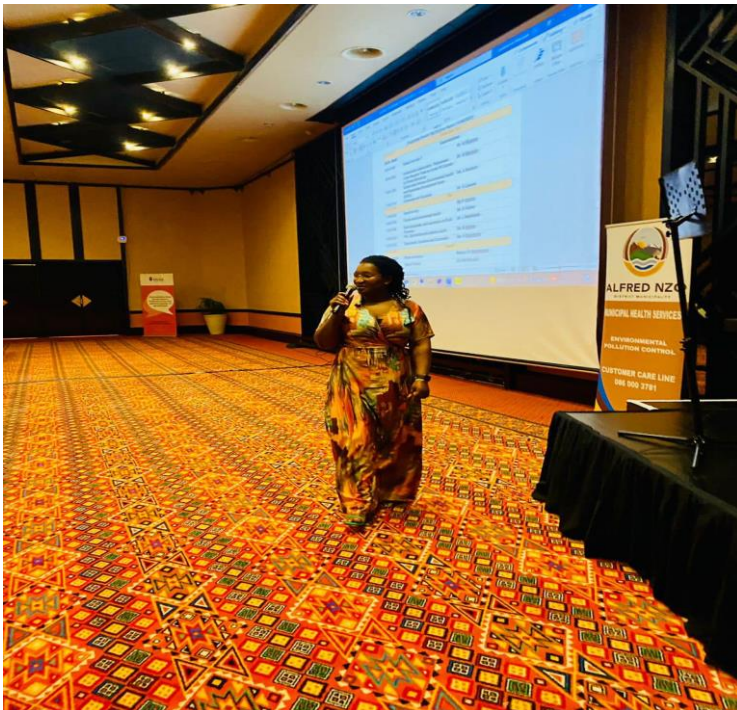
The General Secretary
South African Institute of Environmental Health
375 Mulanga Street
Makwarela Township
Sibasa, Limpopo, South Africa
0950

Tel: 015 964 4543
Cell: 072 184 8012
E-mail: saiehnational@gmail.com
Web page: www.saieh.co.za

2023 WORLD ENVIRONMENT HEALTH DAY COMMEMORATION REPORT

The 26th of September 2023 marks the 12th World Environmental Health Day (WEHD) since its launch, to raise awareness about the significance of environmental health to prevent and control infectious diseases for healthier communities. This year's theme is "Global Environmental Public Health: Standing up to protect everyone's health each and every day", which is a clarion call on governments and organisations to play their part to protect the environment and make communities healthier places for people to live and work.

The national event was preceded by regional and provincial events in some provinces within the country. In Eastern Cape Province, South African Institute of Environmental Health together with Alfred Nzo District Municipality and South African Local Government Association conducted a two days' workshop to all Environmental Health Practitioners conducted in line with the theme as a way of capacity building.



In Limpopo province, the South African Institute of Environmental Health commemorate the day by handing goods to the destitute family, a single mother who stays in one room with her 8 children. After identifying the family, members agreed to contribute funds amongst themselves, bought clothes and food items and the visited the family to hand-over the items in the presence of the community leaders. This was done in line with the meaning of Environmental Health aimed at addressing all the physical, chemical, and biological factors external to a person, and all the related factors impacting behaviours. In her response, the mother indicated that she was so pleased because ever since, she has never been given such items.



The national event was done on 26 and 27 September sponsored by World Health Organization, International Federation of Environmental Health (SAIEH), Clinton Health Initiative, Cape Winelands District Municipality and Western Cape Provincial Government. Dr Selva Mudaly gave a rationale about the World Environmental Health Day Commemoration on behalf of International Federation of Environmental Health. In his address, Dr Mudaly emphasized that Environmental Health Practitioners must remain relevant with the challenges faced by country. He further challenged the government to employ more Environmental Health Practitioners as those who are in practice are overwhelmed by conditions, they find themselves in as they are very few.

The National Department of Health is the process of developing National Environmental Health Act and review of National Environmental Health Policy. There were break-away sessions that aimed at discussing the two topics as part of consultation. At the end, the Department of Health awarded the



certificates to all the Environmental Health Practitioners in the country for the role they played during Covid-19 pandemic.



