



INTERNET ARTICLE

Port Elizabeth community clean Swartkops River

31 July 2017

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) closed the Mandela Month with a clean-up activity in Swartkops River in Port Elizabeth on the Friday, 28 July 2017.

This was part of annual Clear Rivers campaign by the Department which is intended to rid off solid waste from rivers, streams, canals and wetlands. Clear Rivers Campaign is in line with Mandela Month where community members are encouraged to dedicate 67 minutes of their time to clean up our water resources.

The ultimate goal of the campaign is to educate communities about the importance of managing water resources and involved them in water understanding and environmentally conscious.

According to Thandile Ngcume, Assistant Director of Communications in the Eastern Cape Region this campaign is critical in Department's efforts to ensure the provision of clean to communities.

"During this campaign, communities are called to dedicate their time to clean rivers, and other water courses during Mandela month. This is linked to the call made by the State President in the State of the Nation Address of 2014, he called on all South Africans, in the spirit of volunteerism, to dedicate 67 minutes to clean South Africa. The least we can do now is to keep our rivers clean. As land and water is connected, this means keeping our ground litter-free," he said.

A community member Tontyisi Windvoel said "people are dumping things, they used to dump dead animals like chickens, dogs and even pigs into the river. The result of that smelling used to be very strong whenever we walked or cycled past the river, we had to hold our breaths. Sometimes, when the flow is low, you could even see the maggots are crawling all over the bodies".

Cllr. Jodwana of Ward 21, Nelson Mandela Bay said "people must take it serious the issue of saving water because the country is currently facing a serious drought and no signs of rain are expected.

The programme's goal is to raise awareness of the negative effects of dumping waste into Swartkops river, and to encourage people to keep the rivers clean.



water & sanitation

Department:
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