



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **Cleaning stream for a healthy community**

11 October 2018

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency (IUCMA), the City of Mbombela and the Mafambisa Pastors Organisation engaged community members in cleaning the Mafambisa stream to ensure access to clean and safe water. The cleaning campaign took place on 10 October 2018, with the main focus area being the bridge used by irresponsible community members as a dumping site.

The purpose of the clean-up campaign was to undertake a collaborative effort and engage communities to create awareness and educate on the importance of protecting our water resources. Fostering volunteerism among communities is actively encouraged as part of a proactive approach to protecting our rivers, streams, wetlands, and other water ecosystems. The campaign aimed to achieve well informed and environmentally conscious communities, while ensuring pollution free rivers.

The lack of dedicated dumping sites in the community is a major concern which leads to community members using rivers and streams as dumping sites. The major pollutants found in the stream included used disposable nappies, bottles and plastics which are dangerous for humans and livestock in the area.

A community member who participated in the stream cleaning campaign, Ms A Mabuza, stated that they were volunteering to ensure that the stream is always clean and that the water is always safe. "The water we drink comes through the Mafambisa stream which is on the same bridge we are cleaning today. Therefore it is crucial that the water running through the stream is clean so that community members don't become sick. I will ask and encourage community members not to pollute the bridge as it is part of resources that we rely on in getting water and that we must always keep it clean and healthy. I would also like to encourage the Department and the IUCMA to continue with the initiative as it teaches us on very critical issues on how to free our rivers and streams from any pollution", she said.



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Ms Gugu Motha, from the IUCMA, thanked the participants for their efforts and dedication and encouraged them to spread the message of the importance of clean rivers and streams. She also encouraged them to continue with their efforts and never give up as by so doing they contribute to ensure water security in our water scarce country.

**Themba Khoza**