



INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS and City of Joburg join hands to clean the Jukskei River

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Scores of people braved the wet weather to attend the cleaning up of the Jukskei River in Alexandra, north of Johannesburg, on Saturday 17 March 2018 to encourage sustainable water resource management.

The clean-up campaign was a joint effort between the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), the City of Joburg (CoJ) and other stakeholders including the Shomang Sebenzani Development Initiative and members of the community.

The joint effort to clean the banks of the Jukskei River formed part of the National Water Week and the City of Johannesburg's city-wide clean-up campaign, known as A Re Sebetse. The annual observance of World Water Week focuses attention on the importance of freshwater and advocates for the sustainable management of freshwater resources.

DWS Gauteng Acting Provincial Office's Head, Dr Konanani Khorommbi, said the clean-up campaign in Alexandra was an important as it coincided with the International Water Week, saying it was vital noting that there was a need to encourage sustainable water resource management.

"We know that South Africa is a dry country and that most of our resources available are polluted. So, this puts us in a risk that one day we will not have enough water to use", Dr Khorommbi said.

He said the theme for this year focuses on the role of water in eradicating poverty and underdevelopment. Therefore if water was polluted people would not be able to engage in economic activities and be able to support themselves.

Dr Khorommbi added: "It is therefore our call that cleaning the rivers should not just be a once-off thing. We believe that it is everyone's responsibility that wherever they stay they need to look after their environment."

He said the ecosystems in South Africa were shrinking, reiterating that the little that we have needed to be looked after to ensure that whatever we have today even future generations could be able to enjoy.

City of Joburg PR councillor, who is deployed in wards 116 and 105, Mr Shadrack Mkhonto, said the clean-up campaign was to encourage communities to be involved in the cleaning of their environment and not to rely on the city to do the cleaning.

Councillor Mkhonto said: "We ask communities to clean the places where they live and am happy to hear the President of the country calling on people to clean their environment. The cleaning of the Jukskei River is important for the health of the people who live around this river."



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One of the volunteers in the campaign, Ms Nonzukiso Mxinwa, who also works for Pikitup said her taking part in the campaign was to teach the community how to clean their areas so as to prevent diseases from spreading and particularly to protect children.

“Keeping the Jukskei clean is an important thing and members of the community should realise that they should not throw foreign objects into the river because that could have a negative impact on the environment,” concluded Ms Mxinwa.

Hosia Sithole