



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Clear rivers for a healthy nation and water security

28 June 2017

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), as the custodians of water resources has adopted a premise that healthy rivers allow for a healthy nation and contribute to water security. It is in line with ensuring water security that DWS is embarking on a Clear Rivers Campaign during the Mandela Month to clean and rid our rivers and streams of pollutants and ensure the free flow of clear water for the benefit of humans and the environment.

The need for water security, particularly in the face of global climate change and the effects in our rivers, calls for a national and unified approach to protect our freshwater ecosystems that include rivers, wetlands and the broader catchments. The protection and clearing of our rivers and streams is crucial for all the people to benefit from the added-value products of healthy rivers and ensuring access to clean and healthy water for basic human needs.

To protect our freshwater ecosystems and achieve water security, DWS in partnership with sector stakeholders will be clearing up rivers to ensure the free flow of water as part of the volunteer activities that are associated with the spirit of Mandela Month in July. The Department urges communities to volunteer their services and join the river and stream cleaning campaigns and contribute to clear rivers by removing pollutants from our water courses.

Rivers are key assets of the nation. Rivers, dams wetlands and all freshwater ecosystems belong to all of us, therefore we all have the responsibility to play our part in ensuring that the water in our rivers is clean at all times. We have to protect our water resources and conserve the little water available for the benefit of all.

Adopt a river, make a difference and contribute to water security to ensure sustainable water supply for the current and future generations.



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