



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

DWS in Mpumalanga to clean rivers as part of Mandela Month

03 July 2017

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) and the Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency, supported by other water sector stakeholders are embarking on a river cleaning campaign in the Inkomati and Usuthu catchments in the Mpumalanga Province as part of the Clear Rivers Campaign throughout Mandela Month.

The main aim is to ensure clean free-flowing rivers for sustainable water supply and water security for the current and future generations.

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 rid them of pollutants and ensure the free flow of water for the benefit of humans and the environment 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, keep it clean for clear water and ensure sustainable water supply and water security for the current and future generations.



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