



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Stream cleaning for water security on Mandela Day

18 July 2017

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) officials in partnership with Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency dedicated their time to clean up the Mafambisa stream as part of the Mandela Day activities on Tuesday, 18 July 2017.

They were joined by officials from the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs, City of Mbombela, Mafambisa Pastors Organisation and the Siyathuthuka Home Based Care.

This clean up activity is part of the annual Clear Rivers campaign initiated by the Department across the country.

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.

The clearing up of rivers is meant to protect our freshwater ecosystems, achieve water security and to ensure the free flow of water.

After the cleaning of the Mafambisa stream, clear water was flowing freely for the benefit of the communities staying downstream. Amongst the pollutants in the stream were disposable nappies and household waste which shows that the stream and the surrounding areas have been converted into a dumping site by irresponsible community members.



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The Acting Provincial Head of the Department of Water and Sanitation, Mr Masala Mulaudzi supported by Bishop Elijah Mkhabela of the Mafambisa Pastors Organisation pleaded and encouraged community members to keep the stream and the area around the stream clean always. Mr Mulaudzi also pleaded with the community members to adopt the river to ensure that it is always clean and clear water flows regularly for water security in our water scarce country. He also encouraged the community members to be responsible citizens and protect the resource by not using the stream as a dumping site.

Rivers and all watercourses 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 and clear at all times. We have to protect our water resources and conserve the little water available for the benefit of all.

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Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

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