



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Cleaning the Brugspruit for water security and a healthy environment on Mandela Day

18 July 2018

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in partnership with Emalahleni Local Municipality and Rise FM dedicated their time on Mandela Day to clean Brugspruit River in Emalahleni to ensure water security and realize a safe and healthy environment for the community. The river cleaning campaign as part of the DWS Clear Rivers Campaign was led by the Executive Mayor, Ms Linah Malatji and her Mayoral Committee under the theme ***“Be the Legacy: dedicate 67 minutes to cleaning rivers and stream”***.

In her address, Executive Mayor Malatji thanked DWS for bringing the campaign to Emalahleni and encouraged the community members to take care of the water resources in the spirit of Mandela. She told the community that Mandela was a responsible leader and always did good for others and urged them to keep the river clean for the benefit of all depending on the river. Clean rivers are crucial for water security and sustainable water supply, so it is everyone's responsibility to ensure that the rivers and streams are pollution free.

South Africa is a water scarce country and one of the driest in the world. The need for water security, particularly in the face of global climate change and a multitude of anthropogenic impacts affecting our rivers, calls for a national and unified approach to protect our rivers, wetlands and broader catchments. In this way all people can benefit from the value added products of healthy rivers and can have access to clean water for basic human needs. It is for this reason that DWS would like to connect South Africans to their sources of water and the natural infrastructure that are crucial for a water secure future.

The objective of the Clear Rivers Campaign is to undertake a collaborative effort and engage communities as well as promoting and creating awareness and education on 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



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

ecosystems. The campaign aims to achieve well informed and environmentally conscious communities and pollution free rivers.

The incorrect disposal of feminine hygiene products, nappies and hazardous industrial waste, which are directly dumped into our rivers, streams, wetlands and other freshwater eco systems, impact on the water quality and water treatment works of municipalities ultimately affecting water security.

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 and all other watercourses are clean and healthy at all times.

END.

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

For more information contact: Sputnik Ratau on 082 874 2492

For further enquiries: Themba Khoza on 066 301 6962

For media releases, speeches and news visit the Water & Sanitation portal at:
www.dwa.gov.za