



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### MEDIA STATEMENT

#### **DWS spearheads the cleaning of Klip River to mark Mandela Day**

18 July 2018

As part of Mandela Day activities, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), together with its partners, spearheaded the successful cleaning of Klip River in Orlando West in Soweto, today, 18 July 2018.

This clean-up was under the banner of the Clear Rivers campaign, an annual departmental initiative which encourages individuals, businesses and civil society organisations to roll up their sleeves and be part of the cleaning of water resources such as rivers, streams and wetlands.

During the clean-up in Soweto today, the department was joined by the City of Johannesburg, Pickiup, City Parks, Emaphlatini, Coca Cola, Lixil, and Green Development Foundation amongst other organisations who heeded the call of voluntarism.

Amongst those who joined this noble course was the City of Johannesburg Executives Mayor, Councillor Herman Mashaba, who led the team that removed solid water from the river, collected the waste from the landfill site and committed to working with the department to ensure that awareness is raised about the dangers of waste.

Gauteng Region's Simon Maphangula, who is responsible for Water Sector Support, warned communities about the dangers such as littering and the impact they have in water resources. He said people should be cautious and ensure that water resources are protected at all times to minimise expenditure that government incurs by cleaning water.

"This campaign is a catalyst for change and community members should be a change that they want to see in their environment. It is the responsibility of every person to ensure that the environment is clean because the dirt that people throw around end up filling our rivers and streams, in turn contaminating our systems.

"Government has to spend a lot of money purifying the contaminated water due to unfortunate behaviours that need to be changed as a matter of urgency. Rivers and all water resources are key assets to the nation, therefore we all have a responsibility to ensure that water in our rives is clean at all times", he said.

The clean-up in Soweto, was one of the many that were held throughout the country in all the regions of the department.

The campaign is associated with the spirit of volunteerism which is promoted during the Mandela Month to clean rivers, streams and wetlands. The need for water security, particularly in the face of the 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 so that all



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people can benefit from the value-added products of healthy rivers and can have access to clean water for basic human needs.

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**Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation**

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