



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### MEDIA STATEMENT

#### **DWS to clean up dirty rivers to mark Mandela Day**

16 July 2018

This Wednesday thousands of South Africans will join the international community to mark the centenary celebrations of the late Nelson Mandela, South Africa's first democratically elected President.

To mark the birth date of this internationally acclaimed icon, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), with its stakeholders in the water sector, will have fully fledged activities across the country as part of its annual Clear Rivers Campaign.

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

Against this background, the department calls upon all South Africans to spare 67 minutes of their time on this historic day by participating in Clear Rivers Campaign in their own areas. Industries and various individuals are primarily responsible for the negligent practice of dumping toxic waste into the country's rivers.

Officials from all nine regions of the department and partners will be out and about in this noble cause to protect our water resources from all forms of dirt and ensure that they are clean.

Individuals, businesses and civil society organisations are urged to join this campaign by dedicating their time to clean up our water resources. Visit [www.dwa.gov.za](http://www.dwa.gov.za) to see a river near you.

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

**For more information contact: Sputnik Ratau on 082 874 2942**

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