



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Massive cleanup campaign to educating communities

18 July 2019

Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) together with its stakeholders Bloemwater, Mangaung Metro Municipality, Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTEA), Coca Cola Beverages South Africa (CCBSA), South African National Defense Force and Government Communications and Information System (GCIS) embarked on a campaign to educate a community of Bergman in Bloemfontein about river health.

As part of dedicating 67 minutes of goodwill during Nelson Mandela Month, DWS runs a Clear River Campaign which educates communities on the benefits of maintaining healthy rivers. The envisaged outcomes of the campaign are to ensure clean rivers in our communities, which would result in communities accessing clean water for basic human needs. There is a need for water security, particularly in the face of global climate change and a multitude of anthropogenic impacts affecting our rivers wetlands and broader catchments. This year yielded a massive turnout of over four hundred community members who included volunteers from DWS and partners. They flocked to the Renoster River near Bergman and Khayelitsha communities to support the Clear Rivers Campaign.

An awareness campaign was carried out to communicate a message that would have a lasting effect to communities. The message communicated was that the community should take responsibility of their resource - water. They were encouraged to become environmentally savvy and particularly keep their local streams free from pollution. The community was also encouraged to recycle their waste instead of dumping it. In this way, they would not only keep their environment clean but they would also earn cash.

The Clear Rivers Campaign will continue to run throughout the country for the duration of the month of July.

END

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

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