



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



MEDIA STATEMENT

Month of July kicks off the Clear Rivers Campaign 2019.

03 July 2019

In the month of July annually, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) embarks on the Clear Rivers Campaign- **a campaign dedicated to Nelson Mandela**. This campaign calls on everyone to dedicate **their 67 minutes of goodwill** activities towards cleaning up rivers, streams, wetlands, dams, canals and any freshwater source. Everyone is encouraged to participate in cleaning up our water ecosystems, on any day during Mandela Month.

The 2019 theme for the Nelson Mandela Month is **“Action Against Poverty”**. For the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), this theme carries a lot of meaning as we strive to ensure that each and every citizen, especially the poor gain access to clean water.

Pollution is having a negative impact on the water resources, as it affects the quality as well as the quantity of usable water. Pollution also negatively affects the flow of rivers in a way that the waste dumped in our rivers may block the flow of water resulting in lack of supply for the communities downstream. Pollution may also block the normal flow of rivers leading to flooding during heavy downpours.

Various river-cleaning activities will be held around the country and the public can view and participate in local activities; the details of which are available on the website.

Fostering volunteerism among communities is actively encouraged as part of a proactive approach to protecting our rivers, streams, wetlands, and other water ecosystems. The campaign aims to achieve well informed and environmentally conscious communities and pollution free rivers.

The Department calls on all South Africans to roll up their sleeves and commemorate Nelson Mandela Day by participating and initiating their own clean-up activities, as part of the Clear Rivers Campaign, in their own communities.

End

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation.

For more information contact Sputnik Ratau, Spokesperson for the Department of Water and Sanitation on 082 874 2942.

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Department of Water and Sanitation South Africa



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