



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### Clear Rivers campaign is full swing in KwaZulu-Natal province

19 July 2017

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in KwaZulu-Natal kicked-off its 2017 Clear Rivers Campaign by cleaning the Hlobane Stream at KwaMashu G-Section in Durban on Mandela Day on Tuesday, 18 July 2017.

The conditions of rivers across the country have deteriorated and have become dumping areas for all types of waste. This is why the department is leading the Clear River Campaign that aims to create awareness to communities about the need and importance of protecting our water resources.

“Communities and businesses are called-on to dedicate their time to clean rivers or any other water courses to ensure clean free-flowing of rivers. The department is calling on communities to come together and assist in keeping rivers, wetlands and streams clean. We invite community-based organisations to facilitate any clear up activities,” said the departments Water Quality Scientific Manager Siyabonga Buthelezi while briefing volunteers.

“KwaZulu-Natal is currently facing the worse drought in years; the current condition of our dams is quite worrying more especially as we are into the Winter season. This will assist a great deal as South Africans is a water scarce country but more especially it will assist to manage perfect river health system. This dumping of foreign items in rivers needs to end now,” said Buthelezi.

The Hlobane river is one of the four rivers that is part of the campaign, the KZN DWS will also be cleaning rivers in Richards Bay, Newcastle and Ladysmith removing solid waste from the rivers, collecting the waste and moving it to a landfill site, as well as public education awareness initiatives.

As part of the theme of the Mandela Month (with Mandela Day observed on 18 July), communities are invited to take part in the departments nation-wide Clear Rivers Campaign. The department would like to encourage communities to take action to protect water resources.

**Mbali Mahaye**