



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Clearing to prevent water contamination

19 July 2017

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in partnership with the Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency (IUCMA) was joined by the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs and Bushbuckridge Local Municipality to clean up waterways around Lillydale in the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality on 19 July 2017.

The need for water security, particularly in the face of global climate change and the effects in our rivers, calls for a national and unified approach to protect our freshwater ecosystems that include rivers, wetlands and the broader catchments. The protection and clearing of our rivers and streams is crucial for all the people to benefit from the added-value products of healthy rivers and ensuring access to clean and healthy water for basic human needs.

The main focus was on the area leading to the dam used by the community to access water for their daily chores and livestock, basically to prevent its contamination. It is highly disturbing to notice the irresponsible actions of people who simply dump disposable nappies less than a kilometre from the community's source of water. This irresponsible behaviour and action are like dumping raw sewerage into the dam.

"I am so happy that you came to clean up this mess affecting the water quality in our water source. Maybe people will learn from this activity and stop dumping waste close to the water as this will lead to the community getting sick. I always try to discourage people from dumping here, but they don't take



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me seriously. I hope this will open their minds and see the value of having clean water”, stated resident, Mr. Joel Mnisi.

We must always protect our water resources to have access to clean and clear water and conserve the little water available for the benefit of all.

Themba Khoza