



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Clean-up campaign taken to Rietspruit in Evaton

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The Emfuleni Stakeholders Forum members got the shock of their lives when they discovered heaps of solid waste dumped along the Rietspruit during their clean-up campaign which was held at Evaton and Small Farm on 03 August 2018.

The forum comprised of officials from the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Department of Health, Department of Human Settlements, Sedibeng District Municipality, Emfuleni Local Municipality, Rand Water, Home Affairs and Non-Governmental Organisations was joined by the community members on a drive to clean up the Rietspruit and its banks to minimise river pollution.

The team was overwhelmed by the huge amounts of solid and domestic waste such as diapers, plastics, tyres, floor mats, and bottles. Over 300 refuse bags were loaded with waste found on the site during the clean-up campaign.

During her presentation at the end of the clean-up activity Ms Bridget Maleka, Senior Community Development Expert at the Gauteng's DWS office applauded the forum for taking this initiative of cleaning the Rietspruit.

She also indicated that this activity was in line with the department's annual Clear Rivers Campaign that runs through the Mandela Month in July.

The campaign calls on everyone to dedicate their time towards cleaning up streams, wetlands, dams, canals and any freshwater source.

"The health of our rivers is threatened by excessive use of the water and the riverbanks. If we continue to pollute the river in one place, we affect the condition of the river for a long distance downstream", added Ms Maleka.

Metsi-a-Lekoa's Customer Relations officer, Ms Thandi Lediha, echoed the same sentiments by urging the residents to keep the surface area clean of toxic chemicals, solid wastes or anything which can eventually impair the condition of the river.

"In this way, we can benefit from the added-value products of healthy rivers and can have access to clean water for basic human needs", said Lediha.

John Nene, a resident from Small Farm described the campaign as an eye opener and she was grateful for having taken part in the clean-up campaign.

"I have always regarded river banks as dumping sites. This campaign has changed my perceptions. Rivers are part of our lives; their healthy state improves our lives", said Nene.

All the refuse bags were collected by the Emfuleni Local Municipality to a designated dumping site.

Lucky Makgarengi