



## INTERNET ARTICLE

### **Community vows to keep water resources clear of any pollution**

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Wetlands are a crucial integral part of our river systems. They are natural water purification plants resulting in improved water quality in our water resources. Wetlands play an important role in mitigating the negative effects of climate change, improve water quality and reduce flooding. Climate change has negatively affected our weather patterns meaning that we are now more than ever before prone to floods. Wetlands help to reduce flooding.

In heeding the call to volunteerism and doing something good, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in Mpumalanga and the Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency (IUCMA) together with the City of Mbombela, Working on Fire, Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs, Siyanakekela NGO, Vukutimele Recycling NGO, Timele Greening Project, SANBI, the Water Boys cleaned a wetland and stream in Msholozhi in the City of Mbombela as part of the Clear Rivers Campaign to honour and celebrate the legacy of former President Nelson Mandela on Mandela Day on 18 July 2019.

The community joined the cleaning campaign and promised to guard against those using the water resources as dumping sites and to educate them about the disadvantages of polluting water resources to change their actions and behavior.

In outlining the purpose of the event and the Clear Rivers Campaign, Mr Gedion Siziba from DWS encouraged the community to volunteer their services for the benefit of all and the environment. "Mandela Day must not be taken as a holiday but a day to give back and make a difference in the community in 67 minutes. We can dedicate 67 minutes to clean our rivers to ensure that future generations have clean water. The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) came up with the Clear Rivers campaign during the Nelson Mandela Month to engage and encourage South Africans to adopt watercourses in their areas, clean them and strive to keep them healthy and free-flowing at all times. The annual campaign basically is a way of connecting people to their sources of water and calls on citizens to dedicate 67 minutes of goodwill to clean up rivers and water ecosystems", he said.





## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Mr Siziba from DWS also highlighted the issue of pollution as a major threat to our water resources as it negatively affects water quality thereby affecting water security by reducing the available water for use in our water scarce country. Siziba continued to encourage people to treat water resources with respect and care. "Pollution is a major challenge in our water resources and plastic is the biggest challenge polluting our rivers and streams. Pollution basically a result of human behavior and attitude therefore public education is critical to persuade people to change their negative attitudes and behaviours", he said.

**Themba Khoza**

