



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS joins hands with Hennops Revival to clean-up the polluted Kaalspruit stream

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The Kaalspruit stream in Tembisa, Ekurhuleni, has been given a lease on life and this is thanks to a partnership between the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) and Hennops Revival.

At the invitation of the Hennops Revival, DWS, Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the local community formed part of the stakeholders that rolled their sleeves up to clean the polluted stream.

Founder of the Hennops Revival, Tarryn Johnston, said the vision she had in mind for the clean-up campaign was a collaborative effort between a wide range of role players to clean the stream. She said the part of the stream that was being cleaned was chosen specifically because it was on the border of two municipalities – the City of Johannesburg and the City of Ekurhuleni.

She said: “The clean-up was to make a loud statement that we want the rivers clean and that we need help to do so. We understand that even tomorrow after we have cleaned the stream there will be rubbish piling up but that is not the point.”

She said the point was that all stakeholders came together in unity to collaborate in cleaning up the waterways.

Ekurhuleni Ward 1 Councillor, Derek Thomson, expressed appreciation for the work of Hennops Revival and the departments to ensure the waterways were kept clean and looked after.

Thomson said the clean-up campaign was aimed at educating communities to realise that they should not pollute rivers and streams, citing the growing population as one of the causes that resulted into raw sewerage spilling into rivers.

Decrying the piling up of rubbish in streams and rivers, Thomson said the reckless dumping of rubbish into waterways should be discouraged and that the cleaning of the Kaalspruit stream should be used to educate communities that water is life and not a commodity that could be manufactured.

A community activist in Tembisa, Samuel Mashimba, said over a period of time he has observed the degree of contamination of streams in the area, leading to a decision to join hands with Hennops Revival and the departments to change the dire situation.



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“The clean-up today is more of a launch of programmes aimed at encouraging those that are concerned about the environment to come up with sustainable activities to protect our streams from pollution,” said Mashimba

He reiterated the importance of partnerships between the various stakeholders, saying manholes next to streams were getting blocked and resulting into sewer spilling into the water sources and contaminating water.

Hosia Sithole