



INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS and partners celebrate World Water Monitoring Day

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Lewende Woord in Centurion, South of Pretoria became a center of attraction recently as the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) together with the City of Tshwane, Hennops Revival, The Waste Group, Clothes To Good and Lewende Woord Centurion, celebrated World Water Monitoring Day in style.

World Water Monitoring Day aims to build public involvement and awareness regarding the protection of water resources around the globe by ensuring that citizens are empowered to carry out standard monitoring of their local water bodies. A simple test kit enabled everyone – both children and adults – to sample local water bodies for a number of parameters that were determining water quality.

Part of activities on the day was to remove huge amounts of litter trapped in trees and the banks of the Hennops River. The trees have become natural litter traps where masses of plastic have accumulated as a result of flooding and rains which have brought tons of human waste down the river. These waste items are constantly releasing toxins into the river and damaging the ecosystem around them.

Speaking at the celebration opening DWS's Senior Development Expert for Resource Quality Information Services Ms Tebogo Mashiane, said the purpose of World Water Monitoring Day is to equip communities to participate in caring for water resources they depend on, for themselves and future generations.

“Water Monitoring Day is an initiative of America’s Clean Water Foundation in 2003 with the intent of being a program that reached out to people all over the globe to raise awareness of water pollution issues and get people to test their local bodies of water”, said Ms Mashiane.

She added that water is critical to life, all life require water to exist. While testing is an imperative part of Water Monitoring Day, it is important to recognize that sharing your results is just as important. Once you have got your findings, make sure you upload the results to the worldwide EarthEcho Water Challenge database

In her concluding remarks Ms Mashiane said: “It is important to keep track of the health of water resources, know the status of aquatic plants and animals, and also detect pollution of water resources before it becomes a crisis.

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