



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

22 July 2020

Department of Water and Sanitation and its stakeholders clean-up Hennops River to mark Mandela Day

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in Gauteng and a wide range of stakeholders including Hennops Revival NPC and City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality joined hands to clean up the Hennops River in Centurion on Saturday, 18 July 2020.

The objective of the Clean Rivers campaign is to undertake a collaborative effort and actively engage communities as well as promoting and creating on-going awareness and education on protecting our water resources. Fostering volunteerism among communities is actively encouraged as part of a proactive approach to protecting our rivers, streams, wetlands and other water ecosystems, given the drought that still persists in large parts of the country.

The Hennops River is one the rivers that are experiencing unprecedented pollution as a result of human activities such as littering.

The Department of Water and Sanitation Spokesperson, Mr Sputnik Ratau, commended all those who took part in the noble activity of cleaning up Hennops River, saying that it is important for communities not only to take a stand against acts of pollution but also play an active role to clean polluted rivers.

He added that the water quality in the area was very bad, saying it was the responsibility of the community to take care of the river and they should not wait for the Department of Water and Sanitation to be active.

“Every time you throw a paper on the floor it ends up in the river. So, it is not the Department or Hennops Revival, that is responsible for what is happening in the community. Yes, they need to assist us but at the end of the day we are responsible for the state of our rivers”, he said.

Ms Tarryn Johnston, Founding Director of Hennops Revival, an organisation that works towards raising awareness to heal the Hennops River, urged communities to stop littering and polluting water resources and to make a conscious consumer decision to use bio degradable products because water is life.

She said keeping the rivers in the country clean will contribute to boosting the economy and that the movement of cleaning the rivers has become incredibly powerful.

“Taking part in the campaign was to help clean-up the river but that there was still much to be done. The rivers need to be monitored on a monthly basis to ensure that the pollution was effectively dealt with,” she said.

KHULEKANI

NGCOBO