



INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS and City of Tshwane join hands to clean Apies River

25 July 2022

The Department of Water and Sanitation Gauteng provincial office and City of Tshwane officials rolled up their sleeves and got their hands dirty when they cleaned the Apies River in Pretoria to give it a new lease of life.

The clean-up activity, which took place on Friday, 22 July 2022, was the result of cooperation between the department and the City of Tshwane as part of Clear Rivers campaign, initiated by the Department. The department designated its Clear Rivers Campaign to coincide with July, a month dedicated to Nelson Mandela to encourage the public to volunteer 67 minutes of their time to clean rivers, stream and wetlands.

Mr Donald Mabada, the department's Gauteng Director responsible for Regulations, Compliance and Enforcement, said the clean-up campaign was part of the department's work to encourage communities and officials to keep the rivers clean, emphasising that continued pollution of rivers would result to biodiversity being compromised.

He said that, the treatment of water resources that have been polluted costs much more than it would have been had community members stopped throwing rubbish on the streets, stressing that this rubbish eventually ended up into the rivers and streams.

Mabada expressed his excitement about the officials turn out for the clean-up campaign, saying he was moreover grateful to the City of Tshwane that had made a few officials available to take part in the campaign.

A representative from City of Tshwane who took part in the clean-up, Ms Bukeka Nkosi said being part of the campaign was a joyous occasion because the stench that came from the river affected all of us.

"Keeping the rivers clean is a responsibility for all. So, it is important that it is kept clean because we can end up having all sorts of illnesses. Taking part in the clean-up makes me very proud because I am helping the community I stay in," said Nkosi.

She emphasised that rivers and all water resources are key assets to the nation, therefore we all have a responsibility to ensure that water in our rivers is clean at all times.

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