



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
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Department of Water and Sanitation Deputy Minister cleaned Luvuvhu River with villagers in Malamulele

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DWS Deputy Minister Pamela Tshwete brought joy and encouragement to hundreds of women who volunteered to clean Luvuvhu River when she joined them to clean the river on Wednesday, 13 May 2015.

The Deputy Minister launched the Luvuvhu Adopt-a-River project in Magomani Village, Limpopo as part of Malamulele River Health Programme (RHP) within Thulamela Municipality. In launching the project Deputy Minister was joined by the Executive Mayor of Vhembe District Municipality Cllr T. Matibe, Thulamela Local Mayor, Cllr G. Mahosi and members from Xikundu Traditional Office.

“One of our biggest challenges is high levels of pollution of our rivers nationally, which are the sources of water. The department cannot address this challenge alone. We need communities to come on board and participate actively in the management of water resources as they are the ones closer to the rivers”, said Tshwete.

After cleaning the river with some of the 1460 volunteers, Deputy Minister Tshwete headed to Magomani Sports Ground where she addressed thousands of villagers on water and sanitation issues. During her keynote address, she condemned illegal connections, theft and vandalism of water supply infrastructure.

Adopt-a-River (AaR) is a programme that is aimed at creating awareness to all communities on the importance of caring for South Africa’s scarce water resources. The main objectives of the programme are among others things to promote the spirit of volunteerism in protection of water resources. The programme further provides education and awareness on conserving the environment.

Activities of Adopt-a-River project include removal of solid waste in and around the river, removal of invasive plants and other pollutants. Volunteers also monitor water quality of the river on a regular basis. All these activities are carried out to achieve improved water quality, improved state of the rivers and a healthy environment. Through the Adopt-a-River project communities also share knowledge and gain skills, get temporary jobs and most importantly save water.

Velly Maribe