



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **DWS employees lead by example on cleaning rivers**

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Employees of the Department of Water and Sanitation are ensuring that the saying that “charity begins at home” rings true by being exemplary to others through participation in the Clear Rivers campaign during July.

Various units have organised themselves into teams in their respective provinces for the cleanup campaign of different rivers across the country during Mandela Month. The officials are walking the talk to clean various streams and rivers on a voluntary basis, heeding the call government made a few years back to help clean South Africa.

What a most fitting and honourable way for water ambassadors to protect the freshwater ecosystems by making the decision to clean rivers this year. This is not a “part of the job” kind of involvement; it is a community service and social responsibility which is unconventional to the ‘paid to deliver the service’ norm.

The spirit of volunteerism and letsema started reverberating highly as early as June in the various operational centres of the department, as teams vied to be counted among the ‘difference makers.’ Through the initiative, officials seek to leave their footprints in communities.

Clean rivers mean the ecosystems in these resources are protected and sustained. Communities staying close to these water resources are ensured of a hygienic environment. Unpolluted rivers also safeguard food security for people who live in the vicinity of the resources. They are able to plant sources of food by using water from uncontaminated rivers. Domestic animals which drink from clear rivers also stay healthy and thrive.

There are many benefits of having clean rivers, not forgetting that the raw water from these sources get cleaned before it ultimately reaches our taps. The least polluted the water is, the better. More capital goes into purification of highly polluted water.

Officials of the department have chosen to take action and inspire change. It is hoped that communities will take a leaf from employees of the department, by cleaning rivers close by and striving to keep them unpolluted.

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