



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS staff makes a difference by clearing rivers

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On 16 July 2016 officials from Mmabatho Water Treatment Works (WTW) and Setlagole Bulk Water System (BWS) joined forces to clear Makwassiespruit River in North West.

The officials dedicated their time and effort by joining in the Clear Rivers Campaign, which is the umbrella initiative for all river clean ups across the country, and was established with the main aim of creating pollution-free freshwater ecosystems and environmentally savvy communities.

Officials were collected from their different workplaces from 5am and continued cleaning the river until in the evening.

The river is surrounded by storm water drainage channel flowing into the river which might be the main source initiating river pollution in the river segment. The water in the river seemed to be stagnant, which must have been due to drought or water obstructed upstream side of the river.

The officials cleared the debris downstream and upstream of Makwassiespruit River on N12 Bridge in Wolmaransstad town. The cleaning included cutting of the reeds which hold all the rubbish thrown into the river, and taking out all the rubbish into refuse bags. The bags full of garbage were eventually disposed of at the dumping site in town.

According to a report released by the Department of Water and Sanitation on the river cleaning project, Wolmaransstad storm water drainage which discharges water into the river should be kept clean at all times. This will minimize the river pollution during rainy seasons.

Regional offices across the country still continue to support the month-long initiative and everyone is encouraged to participate in the campaign and heed the call by the State President in the State of the Nation Address of 2014 when he called on all South Africans, in the spirit of volunteerism, to dedicate 67 minutes to clean South Africa.

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