



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
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INTERNET ARTICLE

Wetland Clean-up campaign tackles illegal dumping

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The Sedibeng District Stakeholder forum members got the shock of their lives when they discovered heaps of solid wastes dumped along the wetland during a wetland clean-up campaign which was held at Sebokeng Zone 6 on 24 February 2017.

The forum which is comprised of officials from Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Department of Health, Department of Human Settlements, Sedibeng District Municipality, Emfuleni Local Municipality, Rand Water, Non-Governmental Organisations and ward committees was joined by the community members on a drive to clean up the wetland area to minimise the potential threat of wetland pollution.

The campaign proved to be successful when the team discovered heaps of solid waste containing domestic waste such as baby diapers, plastics, tyres, floor mats, and bottles. Over 500 refuse bags were loaded with waste found on the site during the clean-up campaign.

Metsi-a-Lekoa's Customer Care Manager, Mr Yeyakhe Anderson Mgudlwa, urged residents to keep the surface area clean of toxic chemicals, solid wastes or anything which can eventually impair the wetlands.

He also advised residents to use phosphate free detergent when doing laundry or washing cutleries at home as phosphates boost algal growth which can suffocate aquatic species.

"If wetlands are not protected and conserved we will suffer the consequences of not having enough water stay alive and for our economic persistence," said Mgudlwa.

Nompumelelo Mdlalose, a resident from Sebokeng Zone 7 described the campaign as an eye opener and she was grateful for having taken part in the clean-up campaign.

"I have always regarded wetlands as dumping sites. This campaign has changed my perceptions. Wetlands are part of our lives, and we owe them protection," said Mdlalose.

All the participants were given the opportunity to learn more about the functions and values of the wetlands and were urged to preserve and become watch dogs of all wetlands next to their residential areas.

Mr Pheko Mofokeng, Director for Phaphamang Environmental Organisation based in Sebokeng pledged to monitor the wetland area so that the work done during the campaign can be realised in a long run.

Lucky Makgarengi