

TO: All Media
EMBARGO: For immediate release
DATE: 22 September 2023

TCTA commemorates Heritage Day by working with local stakeholders in cleaning Msunduzi River

On 21 September 2023, the Trans Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA) joined forces with a range of stakeholders from the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) province for a clean-up operation at the Msunduzi River, in Pietermaritzburg. The participants included representatives from Water Research Commission, uMsunduzi Municipality, the uMgungundlovu District Municipality, along with water and environmental NGOs Hennops Revival and Triple P. This community-oriented TCTA CSI initiative sought to refocus its heritage month commemoration on the importance of our natural heritage, specifically water conservation and health of our rivers.

The event saw a commendable turnout, with over a hundred local community members making their presence felt. Their joint efforts culminated in the removal of approximately 300 bags of pollutants from the river. Wanda Mkutshulwa, TCTA's spokesperson, shared the broader vision behind the initiative, noting, "Preserving the pristine state of our country's waterways is deeply linked to our heritage. As a key organisation in the water sector, we believe championing such campaigns reinforces our rich and vibrant heritage, while also securing our future."

Triple-P's Director, Ms Ntswaki Dithale, highlighted the profound environmental importance of nurturing the country's rivers. She remarked, "The vitality of our rivers is jeopardised by pollution, overuse of water, and the degradation of riverbanks. A single act of pollution can have detrimental repercussions downstream. A river's natural ability to purify itself is optimally effective when untainted." As a means of educating the participants on the day, Ms Dithale also demonstrated how river water is tested while using samples from Msunduzi River, though the overall result proved the water to be at a fair condition, she did advise that the water is not suitable for human consumption.

The Clear Rivers campaign, a flagship initiative by the National Department of Water and Sanitation, champions community stewardship over local water resources, inclusive of rivers and streams near residential areas. Ms Mkutshulwa further emphasised TCTA's proactive stance, highlighting the organisation's dedication to educating communities next to its projects on the paramount importance of maintaining the health of South Africa's rivers.

TCTA is a state-owned entity responsible for the financing and implementation of bulk raw water infrastructure on behalf of the Department of Water and Sanitation. In KZN, the entity is involved in two bulk raw water infrastructure projects, the Mooi-Mgeni Transfer Scheme and the uMkhomazi Water Project.

Enquiries: Media Liaison Officer; Mr Luzamo Sandlana; +27 (0)82 803 1634;
Lsandlana@tcta.co.za