

**World Water Monitoring Day 2007**  
**Media release by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry**  
**15 October 2007**

October 18, is World Water Monitoring Day. The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry will join the international water community in celebrating this day by involving citizens in a water quality awareness campaign. All the country's water users are encouraged to monitor the local water quality.

World Water Monitoring Day is an international education and outreach program that builds public awareness and involvement in protecting water resources around the world by engaging citizens to conduct basic monitoring of their local reservoirs, rivers, streams, estuaries and other water bodies. An additional initiative would be to inform the public on the real facts of drinking water quality management in order to limit the spreading of misinformation regarding the quality of tap water.

Celebrated annually on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October, World Water Monitoring Day is aimed at recognizing the need to increase public awareness and involvement in the protection of *Water* quality around the world.

Tap water quality can be monitored for drinking, and rivers and streams for effects on fish and other aquatic life. People are encouraged to choose any borehole, river, stream, dam, or other *Water* body to safely monitor the *Water* quality. In fact, one could even monitor the *Water* quality of the *Water* from a household or community tap.

Communities can request the assistance of their Local Municipality to test the *Water* quality with them and discuss ways in which they can together improve or maintain the *Water* quality in their communities.

This year the Department is also launching an exciting schools based competition. **Schools** are expected to develop and submit a proposal for how they would plan and implement a ***Water Quality Community Awareness Campaign***. The three winning schools will receive a R25 000 budget to implement their ***Campaign*** proposals in their respective communities. For competition details call 0800 200 200.

For more information contact:

Leonardo Manus  
Manager: Drinking Water Quality Regulation  
Department of Water Affairs and Forestry  
Tel: (012) 336 6583  
Cell: 082 802 1005

Sue Freese  
Water Institute of South Africa  
Cell: 083 269 6203

