



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY

Tel: 061- 208 7719
Fax: 061- 208 7767
Enquiry: M. Kalo

Office of the Permanent Secretary
Private Bag 13184, **Windhoek**
Divisions: Public Relations

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Public Notice

Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry to observe World Water Day in Windhoek

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry (MAWF) will observe World Water Day and World Wetlands Day under the jointly theme “**Healthy wetlands and innovative water and wastewater management for enhanced livelihoods**” on **22 and 23 March 2017 in Windhoek, Zoo Park.**

World Water and Wetlands Day is an annual event aimed to create awareness on the vital roles healthy wetlands play in reducing the impacts of natural disasters such as floods, droughts and cyclones on communities, as well as helping to build resilience by maintaining healthy wetlands.

For many years wastewater has been considered as yuck which should be disposed, however the world has been battling with increased water scarcity and environmental pollution emanating from improper wastewater management. Furthermore, many parts of the world start to realize that wastewater is a valuable resource in the circular economy and its safe management contributes to health humans and ecosystems. Similarly investments geared towards the improvement of wastewater management means improvement on all 6 targets of the Sustainable Development Goal on Water.

The commemoration of World Water Day is also aimed to denounce the perception that wastewater is non-essential water which should be disposed, to promote the re-use, recycle and reclaim of wastewater, to reduce the demand for freshwater and alleviate the pressure on the already stressed water resources, to reduce environmental pollution, and diseases associated with poor and lack of wastewater treatment and management.

Activities such as Excursions to wastewater treatment facilities in Windhoek Gammams Water Care Works, Windhoek Goreangab Operation Company (WINGOC), and Ujams Wastewater Treatment Plant is scheduled for 22nd March 2017.

While the main commemoration day will take place on 23rd March 2017 in Windhoek, Zoo Park in Independence Avenue at 10h00. Industries are invited to showcase, display and demonstrate their water saving devices and technologies as well as members of the public are invited to attend and commemoration the 2017 World Wetlands/ World Water Day.

The event will be held in partnership with the Namibia Water Corporation (NAMWATER), Ministry of Environment and Tourism, City of Windhoek, Namibia University of Science and Technology, Namibia Hope Youth Arts Education Association, SABMiller Namibia and Ogvily and Mather Namibia.

For more information contact the following people: Ms. Ndina Nashipili at Tel: 061- 208 71 56 Or Ms. Margaret Kalo or Ms. Regina Valombola at Tel: 061- 208 7719.