



INTERNET ARTICLE

Tshwane Mayor, Cilliers Brink has appealed for community and government cooperation to combat illegal dumping

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City of Tshwane Executive Mayor, Cilliers Brink said this during a recent clean-up initiative between the Department of Water and Sanitation, the Soulcent Project, a local NGO and the City of Tshwane (COT) in Atteridgeville, Saulsville, Pretoria West on Thursday, 04 May 2023.

A joint effort between the organisations to celebrate residents who volunteer to clean-up along the Moganwe river. Additionally, they provided relevant information to the local Atteridgeville community.

Volunteers were encouraged to protect and maintain wetlands, save and restore degraded wetlands, and to contribute to the betterment of the environment.

In addition, this initiative aimed to engage the community of Atteridgeville in promoting environmental awareness and pollution effects.

Over 200 community members and 47 officials, including members of the South African Police Service and Metro Police, attended the event.

Councilor Cilliers Brink, City of Tshwane Executive Mayor, addressed the attendees after welcoming and acknowledging guests was done by Ward 107 Councilor Jeff Mashego, suggesting it is appropriate to acknowledge that the city doesn't have enough landfill sites or waste stations, and not enough has been done to keep Tshwane streets clean, especially by law enforcement and providing communities with the facilities they need.

Furthermore, he said it was imperative to provide the service as a metro. The metro and NGOs should also instill a cleaning culture within communities, as it wouldn't be helpful if the spot was cleaned up one day and dirty the next.

Oscar Tinyiko Bungeni, Gauteng DWS Coordinator, suggested that government alone will not suffice. If the rest of the province is involved, there is 98.9% chance of keeping the province healthy.

"It is very unlikely for the Department and other relevant stakeholders to win the battle against illegal dumping that pollutes our environment without the communities involved. We need to bring the locals onboard and that should be our focus and prioritized", said Bungeni





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Another speaker of the day was the Founder of the local NGO, Soulbent Project, Mr Mashudu Makhado. He emphasized the importance of bringing the City of Tshwane back to its former state where it won awards and was renowned for its cleanliness.

Mr Makhado revealed that Soulbent Project hopes to establish more branches in the metros and country to keep communities clean.

"We have realized how significant expanding from metros to cater for the rest of the country would carry so much impact. We hope to achieve the desired fit in no time. We will need more hands and support from relevant stakeholders to achieve this goal as we are currently struggling with suppliers, stipends, transport, and numerous other items that will improve service.

The Soulbent Project Founder, Mr Makhado expressed his gratitude for the support received saying that it was very encouraging.

"The Soulbent Project would like to thank everyone for honoring the day and those on the ground from Monday to Friday. This is to ensure the environment is clean to ensure Tshwane is clean. We should encourage more participation from interested stakeholders," Makhado concluded.

The next big clean-up is on July 18 during Nelson Mandela Day commemoration.

Tshigofatso Mashile

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