



## INTERNET ARTICLE

### DWS calls for community participation in water conservation efforts

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The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has recently called for community participation in water conservation efforts during a joint Arbor Week celebration held in Devon, in partnership with the Lesedi Local Municipality, Sedibeng District Municipality, the local community, and GDARDE (Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development).

The event aimed to engage the locals in water conservation and increase awareness about the importance of trees in our daily lives and their role in climate and the environment.

During the event, Ms. Bridget Maleka from Gauteng Department of Water and Sanitation emphasized the crucial role that knowledge and information play in environmental expertise and water conservation. She stated that the more communities become active participants in these matters, the more society as a whole benefits.

Maleka also highlighted the fact that South Africa is one of the thirty driest countries in the world. This makes water conservation a vital responsibility for each and every citizen. She pleaded with the residents of Devon to actively participate in water-saving methods, especially during this spring season and Heritage Month. This includes being mindful of water usage during activities such as car washing, showering, and watering lawns. Maleka emphasized that every day counts when it comes to conserving water.

Trees have numerous environmental benefits. They provide us with oxygen, improve air quality, contribute to climate amelioration, conserve water, preserve soil, and support wildlife. Understanding the importance of trees and their impact on the environment is essential for fostering a culture of water conservation within our communities. At least 30 trees were planted in Devon during the event.

The Department of Water and Sanitation is advocating for collaborative efforts to transform South Africa into a conservation-conscious nation. It is important for citizens to come together and speak with one voice when it comes to preserving our water resources. Water conservation is not solely the responsibility of the government or a selected few; it is a collective effort that requires the active participation of individuals, communities, and organizations. By working together, we can ensure the sustainable management of our water resources and secure a better future for generations to come.

To encourage community participation in water conservation, the DWS is implementing various initiatives. These include educational programs, awareness campaigns, and the promotion of water-saving technologies and practices. By empowering individuals and communities with the

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necessary knowledge and tools, the DWS aims to create a society that understands the value of water and actively works towards its preservation.

In conclusion, water conservation is a vital issue that needs our immediate attention. The Department of Water and Sanitation, along with other stakeholders, is calling for community participation in water conservation. By understanding the importance of trees and their role in the environment, and by adopting water-saving practices in our daily lives, we can make a significant impact. It is through collaborative efforts and collective action that South Africa can become a nation that truly values and conserves its water resources. Let us all join hands in this crucial endeavor and secure a sustainable future for generations to come.

**Mashile Tshigofatso**