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INTERNET ARTICLE

Water Conservation, the Buzz Word in Celebration of Arbor Day

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Water conservation was the main message coming from the speeches and presentations as the Mpumalanga Provincial Office joined the City of Mbombela Municipality, the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land & Environmental Affairs, the Department of Health, the Department of Correctional Services and the Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency in celebrating Arbor Day at Emjindini extension 11 today.

The celebrations started with the cleaning of illegal dumping sites, and the participating community members were educated about the importance of a clean environment for their own health and water security. as pollution negatively affects water quality.

In outlining the purpose of the celebration, Mr Sibozza from the City of Mbombela emphasized the importance of getting rid of illegal dumping sites and instead communities should clean the streams for a healthy environment. He also called on the community to plant indigenous trees and protect the wetlands for water security.

“We must always remember that we are a water scarce country and as much as water decreases, communities increase in numbers. Let us protect our environment and mainly our wetlands, streams and rivers”, stated MMC for Community Services, Councilor GS Siwela in his keynote address. He further encouraged the community to plant indigenous trees for a clean environment and water security and stop the illegal dumping activities, with an ultimate aim of moving away from the attitude of just celebrating special days but not practicing the messages shared in those celebrations.

Water saving tips were distributed and the community was encouraged to use the little water available sparingly as the area is one of the hardest hit areas in the Mpumalanga Province in terms of the drought.

Even in planting the Arbor celebration tree, water conservation was key as the tree ensures that the water goes to the roots and doesnot simply evaporate. A plastic bottle with holes



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targeting the roots is used to water the tree to ensure that no water is lost through evaporation.

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