

News Editors/Journalists

Immediate Release

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PIKITUP URGES COMMUNITIES TO EMBRACE CLEANER ENVIRONMENT AS A LIFESTYLE

Pikitup, the waste management company of the City of Johannesburg will be celebrating the

National Clean-Up and Recycling Week from the 14-19 September 2015, by encouraging all communities in Johannesburg to embrace recycling and cleaner environment as part of their

lifestyles. The National Clean-Up and Recycling Week was launched in 1999 as part of the nation building initiative to encourage organizations and people from all walks of life to clean-up their immediate surroundings.

Speaking on the eve of the National Clean-Up and Recycling Week, the Managing Director of Pikitup, Ms. Amanda Nair said, “Recycling and cleaning up environment should not be a one day affair. This should be the hallmark of our lifestyles to encourage the society at large to become active citizens in cleaning up their neighborhoods, backyards, streets, schools and/or local parks in an effort to keep the environment clean and safe to live in.

The city generates approximately 4,284 tons of waste on a daily basis. On annual basis this culminates into 1, 56 million tons of waste generated. Close to 90% of mixed waste ends up disposed at our landfill sites. These patterns of waste disposal are not sustainable for the life span of all the existing four landfill sites (Marie Louise, Ennerdale, Robinson Deep and Goudkoppies). It is estimated that, if the residents of Johannesburg do not change the manner in which they handle or dispose of waste in whatever form, there won't be a space to dispose such waste by the year 2022. While Pikitup is mandated to maintain the City's cleanliness to acceptable levels, the City's residents, visitors and tourists also have a vital role to play. Unfortunately, there is a pervasive mindset among Joburg citizens that tolerates littering and illegal dumping. The negative consequences of this mindset extend far beyond the visible blight of unhealthy illegal dumps across the City.

It costs the City/Pikitup over R600 million per annum to clean up street littering and illegal dump

sites - money that could be better utilised on building houses, new ambulances or any number of projects to bring the city up to world-class standards. Pikitup's plan to curb illegal dumping and littering is not only dedicated to cleaning up illegal dumping sites, but also informing communities about the hazards of littering and illegal dumping, and encouraging them to take stewardship of these sites.

To mark this year's festivities, Pikitup calls on all Johannesburg residents to take part in the various clean-up and recycling initiatives that will contribute to a cleaner and healthier environment by following any of the following tips: ü Before you even think about recycling, what should come to mind first is reducing waste and reusing whatever you can at home;

ü If there are purchases you have to make for the household, then think pre-cycling;

ü Pre-cycling is about looking out for and buying products that can be recycled;

ü Buy products that use recycled materials in the product itself or in the packaging to complete the recycling loop;

ü Other than recycling, you can adopt other green practices, such as reducing the amount of harmful chemicals you release into the environment by switching to natural cleaners

that are biodegradable and do not harm the water supply or the environment; and

ü Use environmentally sound products because they do minimal harm to the environment.

In addition, Pikitup has made provision at 42 operating garden sites (recyclable waste drop-off

centres) where residents can dispose of all their recyclable materials including garden waste, e-

waste, oil and batteries. Clean builders' rubble can also be disposed off free of charge at any of

the four Pikitup landfill sites.

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