



Media Statement

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Soweto school to benefit from City's recycling programme

The City of Johannesburg's Environment and Infrastructure Services Department (EISD) will commemorate the Global Recycling Day on Friday, 17 March 2023, with an initiative at Qhoboshiane Primary school in Diepkloof Extension, Soweto.

Global Recycling Day is celebrated annually on 18 March. Global Recycling Day was created in 2018 to help recognise and celebrate, the importance recycling plays in preserving our precious primary resources and securing the future of our planet.

This year the day will be celebrated under the theme: ***#Recycling Heroes 2023, People, Places, Businesses & Activities that continued to support the recycling efforts during the pandemic***

The department has collaborated with various stakeholders including Pikitup, Sikhulisa Intsha Yethu Cooperative, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD), Johannesburg City Parks & Zoo and more.

Pikitup will donate recycling bins to the school while Sikhulisa Intsha Yethu Cooperative will hand over four hundred (400) quality handbags made from plastic materials to be used by pupils to bring recyclables to the school. These recyclables will be bought by Mr Bin and the proceeds will be used towards renovations at the school.

The day will start with a recycling march and public education and awareness drive about illegal dumping, waste management and promotion of recycling. A recycling exhibition will be held in a quest to show residents that they can make a living out of waste. On display will be recycling products such as bales, handbags, car toys, mats made of plastic as well as earrings and art. The commemoration will conclude with the launch of a recycling initiative at the school.

Recycling plays a vital role in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the national legislative requirements. The City has developed an Integrated Waste Management Policy and Plan with the goal to implement sustainable waste minimisation, reuse, recycle and recovery programmes through strategic interventions including the promotion of composting, waste to energy and other reuse and recycling initiatives supported by the introduction of waste separation at source programmes. These programmes are aimed at the upliftment of the quality of life for the communities of the City.

"The City generates over 1.6 million tons of waste annually and recycles around 15% per annum. The City's 4 operational landfill sites are left with combined 3 years landfill air space. It

is critical that the City increase the waste diverted away from landfill sites to avoid a day zero waste,” says Makhosazane Baker, the Director Waste Management and Regulations in EISD.

“The City is working with National and Provincial department as well as the private sector including Waste Pickers to promote waste diversion initiatives e.g., separation at source and establishment of waste recycling facilities,” adds Ms Baker.

There is a waste management paradigm shift currently adopted nationally that aims to encourage waste disposal as last resort. As such the City has developed new interventions to this effect to motivate waste separation and inclusion of informal waste recyclers in its operations. The Policy and Regulations developed to minimize waste including recycling are monitored and enforced by the use of City’s Waste Management by-laws that were gazetted in October 2021 and can be viewed or downloaded on www.joburg.org.za

Ends

Issued by the City of Johannesburg

Group Communication & Marketing Department

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