



Bela-Bela Local Municipality

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Office of the Municipal Manager

MEDIA STATEMENT

For immediate release

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The community that destroys its forests destroys itself. Forests are the lungs of the our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength

Deforestation is an act done by humans in which forests and trees are permanently destroyed or removed in order to create an area for building houses, and also use the trees for industries like manufacturing of papers, wood and construction.

Agricultural activities like farming also contributes to the cutting down of trees because vegetation and keeping of livestock requires a large area that is clear from trees.

Cutting down of trees and forests has a great impact on the environment. Forests are known to be the lungs of the earth as they are natural air cleansers. They absorb the carbon dioxide in the air and release oxygen into the air.

The loss of trees can cause climate change, desertification, and soil erosion, flooding and lead to loss of biodiversity.

The municipality has a mandate to promote a safe and healthy environment as per Section 24 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act 108 of 1996, and equally members of the public have responsibility to maintain a safe environment by not destroying forests and trees.

The best way to fight deforestation is through conservation. Try not to waste papers (remember papers are made from trees). Try to recycle, not only papers but also cans, glass and plastics. Tree planting programmes like those of Abor days also encourage members of the communities to plant trees.

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