



Bela-Bela Local Municipality

Chris Hani Drive, Bela-Bela, Limpopo. Private Bag X 1609 Bela-Bela 0480

Tel: 014 736 8000 Fax: 014 736 3288

Website: www.belabela.gov.za

Office of the Municipal Manager

MEDIA STATEMENT

For immediate release

To : All Media Houses

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ILLEGAL WASTE DUMPING AWARENESS

Land, water, soil and air pollution in the neighbourhood are primarily caused by illegal dumping. The chemicals and non-biodegradable materials in the waste affect the physical environment and the waterways by contaminating groundwater and soil.

The waste can also spread weeds and pests, therefore, affecting agriculture and wildlife.

Domesticated animals can also die after consuming poisonous materials such as plastics and chemicals from the waste.

The value of property obviously diminishes if it is littered by illegal dumping. Besides, lands or places that have been turned into illegal dumpsites easily turn to hotspots for crime.

The dirt and smell can also make such areas unsightly, especially if the dumping is done in forests or beside the road and this might impact on tourism in Bela - Bela.

Illegally dumped materials contain toxic substances, sharp objects, white goods, nappies, contaminated medical waste, asbestos and tires. These materials pose serious health and safety risks to children who may pick, eat or play with them or be harmed by sharp objects.

The municipality has a constitutional mandate to promote safe and healthy environment and equally members of the public have a responsibility to maintain clean environment by not littering and dumping waste illegally.

Members of the public are encouraged to practice Reducing, Recycling, Reusing and to also explore economic opportunities in waste recycling.

Recycling initiatives such as the opening up of various designated areas for free collection of used and obsolete appliances, furniture and other home products for recycling can reduce illegal dumping.

The practice of reusing, such as donating or selling used products that are still in good condition, is also encouraged to cut back on illegal dumping of appliances and furniture.

For enquiries relating to Waste Management contact Mr Andrew Mohlala on 082 555 4229 or Mohlalaa@belabela.gov.za weekdays between 07h30 and 16h00

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Issued by Communications and Public Participation

For media enquiries, kindly contact:

Municipal Spokesperson : Mr Kabelo Mosito

Contact Number : 066 301 4806

E-mail address : Mositok@belabela.gov.za