



# Bela Local Municipality

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**Office of the Municipal Manager**

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## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**For immediate release**

**To : All Media Houses**

**Date : 22 June 2021**

### **OPEN BURNING OF OLD TIRES A HAZARD TO SOCIETY**

Members of the Public are warned against the burning of old tyres as they create a thick black smoke that has large quantities of toxic solids which can cause health problems which may include skin and eye irritation, breathing problems, central nervous system depression, cancer and it could even result in the loss of life. Children, Elderly, Asthmatic and immune suppressed individuals are more vulnerable to the pollutants during the burning of tyres.

These toxic solids are also harmful to the environment and pose a risk to public health and safety. Uncontrolled burning of tyres can cause three main environmental problems, which are air pollution, soil pollution and water pollution.

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 a responsibility to maintain a safe environment by not burning tyres.

Scrap management practices, which involve reduce, reuse, recycle and proper disposal, are recommended to be adopted by the community and the Municipality along with strict compliance laws and regulations.

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**Issued by Communications and Public Participation**

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