



Bela-Bela Local Municipality

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Office of the Municipal Manager

MEDIA STATEMENT

For immediate release

To : All Media Houses

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OPEN BURNING OF SCRAP TIRES

Open fires of uncontrolled burning of tires create a thick black smoke that is toxic with large quantities of toxic solids and hazardous gasses emissions and this smoke and toxic residues from the burning of tires may cause harm to the environment, nuisance and pose risk to public health and safety.

Uncontrolled tire fires usually have a major impact and the main three effects it has on the on the environment is air, water and soil pollution.

The burning of scrap tires can also have an impact on human health as the toxic emissions released in the air during the burning of scrap tires can cause significant short and long term health effects.

These health effects may include irritation of the skin, eyes, respiratory effects, central nervous system depression and cancer. Children, elderly, asthmatic and immune suppressed individuals are more susceptible to the pollutants during the burning of tires.

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 burning scrap tires.

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.

- END -

Issued by Communications and Public Participation

For media enquiries, kindly contact:

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