

Arbour Week celebrated in the newly established Tshiame D

The Executive Mayor of Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipality Mofumahadi Mathokoana Mopeli joined the rest of South Africans in celebration of Arbour Week when she planted trees in the newly established settlement of Tshiame D outside Harrismith on Thursday, the 8th of September 2011.

Four hundred indigenous trees were planted amid fanfare and dance to the beat of Sesotho traditional music by Mokotjo much to the delight of residents, who were recently relocated by the municipality from informal settlement of Matoding to their new sites in Tshiame D.

Also taking part in the planting of trees were Members of the Mayoral Committee, who included Councillors Matshepo Mokubung, Wilson Lefora, Mahlomola Majake, Ntsane Mopeli and Teboho Mohlekoa, as well as Chief Whip Fanyane Radebe. Ward Councillor Moeketsi Mofana was also present to open the function.

The Executive Mayor explained that the planting of trees in Tshiame D was a gesture of goodwill to the residents of the area for having an understanding and amicably resolving misunderstanding around the allocation of sites to the poor and selling to those, who can afford, by the municipality.

This comes after residents of Tshiame B opposed the selling of sites and the relocation of residents of Matoding to the new sites until Minister of Human Settlements Tokyo Sexwale intervened.

“We would like to say thank you to residents of this area for having co-operated with us when we took a decision to move residents of Matoding to their new sites.

“We are fully aware that there are obligations that we still have to fulfil as government such as provision of houses to those, who qualify, and electrification of the area but we plead with you, the community to bear with us as we will be attending to those needs,” said Mofumahadi Mopeli.

She pleaded with residents to look after the trees that would be planted in their area.

“Tree serves different purposes. There are those that are planted just for shade while others are planted to bear fruits. So, today we planting them just for shade. It is our intention that as the time goes on we would plant at least two fruit trees in each yard,” she added.

The aim of the government in planting trees is to create awareness regarding the importance and value of trees in our daily lives.

The 2011 Arbor Week celebrations are aimed at accelerating greening and implementation of the Million Trees Programme that was launched in 2007.

