



agriculture,  
forestry & fisheries

Department:  
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Province of the  
**EASTERN CAPE**

RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND  
AGRARIAN REFORM

**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**1 SEPTEMBER 2017**

## **SOUTH AFRICANS CELEBRATES NATIONAL ARBOR WEEK**

As the custodian of greening function in South Africa Minister Zokwana officially launched Arbor Week in Matatiele Local Municipality at the Cedarville Town Hall. The launch was in partnership with the Eastern Cape Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform (DRDAR), Alfred Nzo District Municipality, Matatiele Local Municipality, and the corporate sponsor, Total South Africa. Greening of our landscapes and the planting of trees for beautification, aesthetic value and nutrition is an important forestry service.

The Minister handed over **100 Peach** trees to the Local Councillor for distribution to **50 households**. Each household will receive two trees as part of DAFF's contribution to food security. As part of the implementation of the greening programme it is estimated that about 3000 trees would have been planted by the end of the campaign throughout the area of Matatiele Local Municipality.

The Minister commenced the launch with visits to projects in the area. The Minister and MEC Mlibo Qoboshiyane planted fruit trees in a family cooperative, Ingcambu Agricultural Development in Cedarville and donated vegetable seed packs. Most vegetables grown by the cooperative are destined for school feeding and nutritional programmes around the area.

This was followed by tree planting at the Maluti Multipurpose Disability School and GI Primary School in Cedarville. This is a new school that has requested wind breaks, 30 trees have been provided and the Minister and his guests planted 7 trees. The tree planting drive will be concluded with planting of trees at the entrance of Matatiele town.

Minister Zokwana awarded municipalities doing excellent work in greening their areas. The Arbor City Awards Competition aims to recognise and provide incentives for towns and cities for greening their areas of jurisdiction especially the disadvantaged areas such as townships and informal settlements. These awards are done through a partnership between DAFF, Total South Africa and the Institute for Environment and Recreation Management (IERM).

This national competition has three categories namely; Metropolitan, Local and Rural Municipalities.

Walking away with the best Metropolitan municipal award and R300 000 was the City of Tshwane. In the Local Municipality category, Stellenbosch Local Municipality took first place and R 300 000 and second place went to Polokwane Local Municipality and R250 000 prize. In the last category; Rural Municipality; Umzimvubu local municipality scooped the R250 000 prize.

Total South Africa has donated R2, 4 million for the Arbor week greening campaign. The South African Post Office will supply trees in Gauteng to the value of R 50 000. SAPPI will also donate indigenous trees to be planted in and around Matatiele.

The theme for this year's campaign is "**Forests and Water**" with the aim of emphasising the planting of indigenous trees that conserve water. The Department promotes the trees of the year. For this year the Buffalo Thorn and Ebony Trees have been selected as trees of the year. The trees of the year are selected from the species that are becoming extinct from our indigenous heritage. One species is common and the other is rare in terms of occurrence.

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