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THABA CHWEU

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Northern Areas:
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24 Hours Emergency no:
Tel: 013 235 1788
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All Correspondence to be directed
To the Municipal Manager

LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER

12 April 2022

MEDIA RELEASE

LET US WORK TOGETHER TO STOP ILLEGAL DUMPING

The illegal dumping of waste has become rife and a serious cause for concern to TCLM. Factors such as exponential population growth, the mushrooming of informal settlements, and the lack of environmental education are major contributing factors to the problem.

Illegal dumping is defined as depositing, discharging, spilling, or releasing of any kind of waste in or on any public space. This includes waste that is loose, or in boxes, rubble, or bags. Illegal dumping sites have serious effects to both public health and the environment because of the following factors:

- They generate a hideous smell resulting from the decomposed waste which is detrimental to both human and animal health.
- They become breeding grounds to harmful insects such as mosquitoes, and cockroaches, and animals such as rats.
- Nature and other living species can also be affected because poisonous substances from the illegal dumping sites can flow into drainage systems.
- The soil where illegal dumping occurs over a prolonged period, becomes infertile due to contamination making the growing of plants to be difficult.
- Loose papers that are disposed of at the sites can trigger wildfires.
- The Municipal resources both human and capital become over stretched because personnel must be deployed to clear the sites which occasionally disturbs the normal waste collection schedule.

Dumping on any public space is illegal and a crime punishable by law. The Municipality works closely with law enforcement agencies and if one is found guilty of illegal dumping, they can be fined or imprisoned.

The Municipality will be embarking on a campaign to raise public awareness about the effects of illegal dumping. The campaign will be rolled out through mass media, information flyers, educational workshops, and cleaning campaigns in affected wards.

The public can play a significant role to prevent illegal dumping through the following interventions:

- Disposing of waste only in bins and at approved municipal landfill sites.
- Buy additional waste bins if needed.
- Make others aware of the importance of keeping the environment clean and litter free.
- Fence off properties to prevent others from using them as dumping sites.
- Disposing of building rubble and garden waste at municipal landfill sites.
- Night disposal is prohibited, waste must be disposed off between 07:00 and 17:00.

The public is urged to report illegal dumping at our offices or call 013 235 7300 or 1788. Illegal dumping is a health hazard and an ugly site to which we must work together to uproot and keep Thaba Chweu clean.

-Ends

Issued by Communication and Marketing Unit

MR THEMBA SIBIYA

COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING MANAGER

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