



MEDIA RELEASE

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EMBARGO: Immediate

Nurturing life on Madiba Day!

As thankful for the rain that fell in the area on Madiba's birthday, July 18, Knysna Ward 5 councillor, Eleanore Bouw-Spies had to postpone her 67 minutes for Mandela initiative till Monday, July 20.

While the residents of Rheenendal joined Bouw-Spies in beautifying the area, Knysna Executive Mayor, Georlene Wolmarans urged the Greater Knysna residents to donate blood as part of her Mandela Day programme. "South Africa is facing a major blood shortage," she said and added: "In some cases, hospitals are postponing scheduled operations in order to reserve blood for emergency operations.

In conjunction with the Western Cape Blood Transfusion Service she hosted a blood donation drive at the Municipal offices from 10:00 to 14:00 on Monday 20 July.

She asked residents to donate blood and said that the shortage of blood supply in the country is a problem that everybody can do something about. Blood donors, between the ages of 16 – 65 year-old, weighed more than 50kg's, and are medically healthy and lead a safe lifestyle were urged to donate precious blood.

The Mayor was absolutely thrilled when over 50 people listened and responded to her plea.

"Life is unpredictable," Wolmarans continued. "You might need a blood transfusion in the near future, and having donated blood on Monday you may just have saved three lives." She urged those residents who had donated blood on Monday to consider becoming a regular blood donor."

In the meantime Bouw-Spies, joined by Rheenendal residents walked the streets of Rheenendal planting trees and picking up litter. She expressed her gratitude to Simola Hotel, Country Club & Spa for the 1 000 cupcakes, 100 boerewors rolls and trees they donated for Beautiful Rheenendal campaign. "I am extremely grateful for the way in which Simola has come on board with this project. This is a fantastic example of public-private partnerships and what they can achieve - something that is very close to my heart."

She said that the event launched a broader beautification project of the area, and concluded. "We will also be training and equipping local residents with ways to maintain these relevant areas, ensuring that we work together in creating a town where people and nature prosper together."

Wolmarans added: "I believe that every day is Mandela Day - we should all be on a constant look out for ways in which we can serve our community, Donating blood is an easy, selfless act that you can do on a regular basis. It's the easiest way I know of saving lives."

ENDS

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