



Tshwane environmental mayoral committee member Michael Mkhari (centre) got together with residents to plant trees in Mamelodi West.
Photo by Andrew Mkhondo

MKHARI LEADS CLEAN-UP

Councillor warns people to protect environment

By KGOMOTSO MEDUPE

THE city of Tshwane started a clean-up operation at Melodi Park in Mamelodi West yesterday as part of the National Clean-up and Recycle Week.

Agriculture and environmental mayoral committee member Michael Mkhari led the campaign.

Joined by the members of the public works programme and city officials, he encouraged Mamelodi residents to keep their parks clean.

He said the aim of the clean-up week is to build awareness of the social, environmental and economic benefits of recycling.

He told residents it is their responsibility

to make sure their kasi is kept clean at all times.

Mkhari warned people not to occupy land illegally.

He said some open spaces were meant for planting trees, which take care of the atmosphere.

"It's now difficult to plant trees because the land has been invaded by illegal squatters.

"Those people make it difficult for us to protect the environment."

People planted trees in the park and cleaned the Pienaars River.

"All the developments have filled nature and in the long run, we will destroy our

beautiful city. We need to do everything we can to save it," said Mkhari.

Gauteng environmental director Aluon-eswi Mafunzwaini said people need to be taught to care for their environment.

"We need to keep it green, not just for beauty but also for our health.

"We shouldn't pollute it," he said.

Mafunzwaini hoped residents will continue the job they began and continue recycling.

He said through re-using waste, they can make extra cash while they keep the environment clean.

"We will be killing two birds with one stone," said Mafunzwaini.