



**Publication:** Maritzburg Sun - Main

**Title:** MUNICIPALITY INITIATES LANDFILL RENEWAL PROGRAMME

**Publish date:** 05 May 2023

**Page:** 2

**Reach:** 29956

**AVE:**R 49009.98

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# Municipality initiates landfill renewal programme



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**T**he Msunduzi Municipality has embarked on an intensive alien plant removal programme to improve the New England landfill site.

Newly-appointed manager, Nosihle Nzama, said that the programme, which was initiated in March, was a massive project as 29 hectares have to be cleared.

"We communicated with colleagues from parks to assist with equipment while we are also trying to procure our equipment in the landfill site," added Nzama.

She added that they want to restore the site to its former condition.

"We are trying to bring confidence back to Pietermaritzburg and to the people who were affected by the landfill site fires. We are working tirelessly to ensure that we are

compliant.

"In preparation for the upcoming winter season, and to mitigate dry season fires, our teams at the New England landfill site are working tirelessly, cutting vegetation, as well as grass, [and] poisoning alien plants," she said.

Nzama added that they would also be starting a programme to plant indigenous plants in the landfill site.

"The site was being maintained, but we embarked on this intensive cleaning last month," Nzama said.

"We are also trying to ensure cleanliness [to create a] conducive environment for everyone. This place is much safer and cleaner. We plan to continue with this programme of beautifying the landfill site.

"The programme is ongoing and we won't stop.

"We are also making use of Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants, who are also assisting in ensuring that the site is clean and providing efficient services," Nzama added.

Msunduzi Municipality senior waste manager, Wilson Mhlongo, said they have an internal and an external audit to measure compliance that has to be achieved.

"Part of the compliance action plan, which is an approved action plan, is utilised currently for us to be able to comply with the compliance regulation.

"We want the facility to be appreciated by the eye rather than to look at the pile of waste whenever you pass by the landfill site. They should see indigenous vegetation and be told by signage that there is a landfill there," added Mhlongo.

