



**Publication:** Weekend Post - Main  
**Title:** Fight against illegal dumping intensified with new project  
**Publish date:** 11 Nov 2023  
**Page:** 4

**Reach:** 8617  
**AVE:** R 10365.83  
**Author:** Simtembile Mgidi

## Fight against illegal dumping intensified with new project

**Simtembile Mgidi**

With a plan to clear 7,251 illegal dumpsites in communities nationwide, forestry, fisheries and environment minister Barbara Creecy launched the department's cleaning and greening programme in Motherwell yesterday.

To ensure the success of the project, the department has partnered with all the provincial governments.

The programme has created thousands of job opportunities and will be implemented in the Buffalo City Metro, Alfred Nzo, OR Tambo, Amathole, Chris Hani, Sarah Baartman, Joe Gqabi district and the Nelson Mandela Bay metro.

Bay deputy mayor Babalwa Lobishe, Ward 59 councillor Bulelani Matenjwa and other officials were also in attendance at yesterday's event.

Of the 512 problematic sites identified in the Bay, Creecy visited 41, where cleanup operations had already started.

"From an environmental perspective, illegal dumping poses serious risks to livestock, wetlands, rivers, marine and coastal areas," Creecy said.

"This weekend, SA sends a delegation to Kenya to participate in the UN Environment Assembly's negotiations on a legally binding instrument to prevent plastic pollution.

"Our participation in this event means we have a duty to

effectively tackle plastic waste in our own homes.

"As the world moves to find more effective ways to combat plastic pollution, government is taking steps to improve municipal waste collection, ensure landfill compliance, and promote recycling."

Municipalities provided the workers with protective clothing and cleaning materials, while the department of forestry, fisheries and environment provided a stipend of R130 a day.

The cleanup crew will work through the expanded public works programme.

Each participant is employed for 12 months and will work for a minimum of 20 days

a month. The total budget for the programme is R900m.

"In preparation for this programme, our department had multiple engagements with the municipality," Creecy said.

"We assisted the municipality to find the budget to purchase a specialised fleet for waste collection.

"We also ensured additional refuse collection in areas lacking service delivery.

"To ensure sustainability, the initiative includes planting trees in the rehabilitated dumping sites.

"We are planting both indigenous trees, in line with the water scarcity of the country, and fruit trees to contribute towards food security."

In partnership with co-operative governance and traditional affairs and the National Treasury, the department has revised the municipal infrastructure grant policy so municipalities can purchase fleet to improve household collection and improve landfill management.

"In the last two years, we have spent more than R164m to buy 44 waste collection vehicles and 21 landfill management waste vehicles for 58 municipalities," Creecy said.

She said that 225,000 trees would be planted throughout the country during the financial year, with 3,000 committed for the Bay.