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the department of economic
development, tourism and
environmental affairs
FREE STATE PROVINCE

MEDIA ADVISORY

ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION IN BETHULIE

20 September 2012

The 25th September 2012 marks the 29 years of Arbor Day celebration in South Africa. As an important biodiversity factor, Arbor Day raises awareness of the value of trees in our society. Trees are a source of building material, food, medicine, and simple scenic beauty.

Mme Mamiki Qabathe, MEC for The Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs will be visiting the small town of Bethulie where 30 township households. The 1600 tree lot will be consisting of 800 fruit trees and 800 indigenous trees and each household will be receiving two to plant. The types of fruit trees to be planted are Apricots, Plum and Peaches. This is the first ever departmental campaign of planting fruit trees in townships.

Amid the line-up of the day, Mrs Hanlia Kloppers who is the Chief Horticulturist for the Department will be demonstrating tree planting steps at the Community Hall. The MEC and fellow dignitaries will also be planting trees within the Community Hall yard where holes have been already dug up.

Through Arbor Week, the MEC hopes to achieve one of the following with the communities; eliminate poverty as unemployment is very high in these communities, promote better knowledge and caring of trees, encourage green activities in rural communities, discourage and condemn veld fires or arson in farms that produce security for our communities, and raise awareness of the importance of the role trees play in societies.

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