



WEST 1

ARBOR DAY

COMMEMORATION



UMgeni Primary School
Date : 02 September 2025
Time : 11:00 am

THEME : MY TREE, MY OXYGEN, PLANT YOURS TODAY

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REPORT: WEST 1 ARBOR WEEK COMMEMORATION 2025

INTRODUCTION

UMngeni Primary School is one of the schools that are situated in the Western side of Durban, Ward 8. The school starts from Grade R to Grade 7. The school has a number of 187 learners. Routine inspections of schools are conducted by Environmental Health Practitioner often lead to early detection of challenges that might cause threat to public health. The main purpose of conducting the training was to prevent learners from getting air borne diseases due to the burning illegal dump sites around the area, discourage learners from dumping within the school and community streets.

BACKGROUND

September annually is the month to celebrate Arbor (tree planting and preservation) is a National campaign celebrated by different stakeholders and departments around the world. **Arbor Week 2025** is from the 1st to 7th September as national health calendar on the 26th September 2019 with the theme this year being **THEME: "MY TREE, MY OXYGEN. PLANT YOURS TODAY"**.

eThekweni Municipality West 1 Environmental Health office will be commemorating Arbor week by choosing one of the days as arbor day by doing the health education, environmental awareness, presentations by different departments and tree planting at UMngeni Primary School. This school is situated in Ward 8 where there are 2 illegal dumping sites which had contributed a lot to Climate change of the area due to the burning of all waste that is dumped illegally in these sites by different companies and contractors.

eThekweni Municipality Environmental Health Offices from West 1 Sub District was celebrating the World Arbor Week on the 2nd of September 2025 at UMngeni Primary School. Target group will be grade six and seven learners and school staff members. The aim of this campaign is to mobilize the schools and community at large to plant trees and keeping the environment clean by practicing environmental hygiene. Plant trees to:

- Contribute to a healthier environment and fight the effects of climate change.
- Beautify the environment and improve community spaces, homes, schools, churches, towns and cities.
- Improve access to food security, nutritious food and livelihoods.
- Enrich biodiversity for habitat, medicine, fresh air and greener future.

CHALLENGES

- Improper waste segregation.
- Illegal landfill sites (Dumping sites)
- Poor personal and environmental hygiene
- Burning of mixed types of waste.
- Lack of knowledge about Environmental Health.

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PURPOSE

- The purpose of the campaign is to create awareness about climate change impacts on vulnerable communities and a call for Environmental Health Practitioners to play an essential role in adaptation strategies and measures to protect communities against the challenges of climate variability at a grassroots level. Arbor Day is celebrated for making the learners, staff and community to have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures that prevent pollution and ecological degradation.

OBJECTIVES

- To encourage the health and safety environment.
- To implement the cradle to grave system in terms of waste from the point of generation to the point of disposal.
- To motivate the mindset of learners and community about the importance of planting the arbor trees and benefits of getting the fresh air of carbon dioxide from them.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act, Act 108 of 1996.
- eThekwinI Municipality Public Health By law
- eThekwinI Municipality Nuisance By law

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METHODOLOGY

Task	Purpose	Responsible person	Outcome	Date
Planning Meeting	Proposal of Arbo Day Commemoration	Mrs. P. Moodley - Environmental Health Services Manager Sinethemba Ngobese- Environmental Health Practitioner	Campaign initiation	11 August 2025
Planning Meeting	Proposal of Arbor Day Campaign to be done.	Sinethemba Ngobese- Environmental Health Practitioner UMngeni Primary School Principal- Ms. P. Ndaba	Campaign initiation	13 August 2025
Pre-Planning meeting	Request to different stakeholders and departments to be part of the proposed Arbor Day campaign.	Sinethemba Ngobese – EHP Different departments	Date of the campaign. Targeted group of learners. Outlined the activities that will be conducted. Breakdown of the presentation that will take place.	18 August 2025
Invitation distribution	Environmental Health Practitioner drafted the invitation and was sent to different stakeholders.	Sinethemba Ngobese- Environmental Health Practitioner	Notification and response received	26 August 2025
Final preparation of the campaign	Information collection and gathering. Material such as pump lets to be used during the campaign as part of promoting Environmental Health Unit visibility.	Sinethemba Ngobese- Environmental Health Practitioner	Material to be used in the campaign was compiled	01 September 2025
Arbor Day Commemoration Day	Activities were conducted by Different stakeholders.	UMngeni Primary School Environmental Health Department Cleansing and Solid Wastes Department	Campaign completed	2 nd September 2025

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Parks, Recreation and
Culture Department

UMnsinsi Inanda Dam

PLEMENTATION



Opening in prayer by the school representative.



Welcoming of all the stakeholders and attendees by the school teacher.

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Purpose of the day and presentation conducted by Environmental Health Practitioners.

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Presentation by Cleansing and Solid Wates Department



Presentation by Park, Recreation & Culture

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Presentation conducted by UMnsinsi Inanda Dam

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Trees planting conducted by UMngeni Primary school and different stakeholders.

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Tree planting was conducted by UMngeni Primary School and different stakeholders.

THE PRPGRAMME OF THE DAY INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING PRESENTATIONS

- Presentation by Environmental Health Department
- Presentation by Cleansing & Solid Wastes Department
- Presentation by Parks, Recreation & Culture
- UMnsinsi Inanda Dam

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PRESENTATION COVERED THE FOLLOWING:

Explanation and description Environmental Health: Addresses all the physical, chemical, and biological factors external to a person, and all the related factors impacting behaviours. It encompasses the assessment and control of those environmental factors that can potentially affect health. It is targeted towards preventing disease and creating health-supportive environments.

Contributing factors to the environmental impact and human health impact were summarised to the leaners:

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS	IMPACT	HUMAN HEALTH
Improper disposal of waste	Air pollution	Respiratory diseases
Burning of mixed wastes	Land pollution (Untreated wastes resulting to the combustion and leading to methane gases)	Inhalation of airborne diseases
Illegal land fill sites(Illegal dump sites)		Tuberculosis (TB)
		Asma

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Contaminated water by different types of wastes	Water pollution	Foodborne diseases Diarrhoea
Contaminated food from used contaminated water	Food Poisoning	Foodborne diseases Diarrhoea

Role of Environmental Health Practitioner:

- Health education and awareness programme are conducted
- Integrated team work by Environmental Health department and community
- Health surveillance of premises: Schools, Early Childhood Development, Residential, Businesses and Public premises are regularly monitored to identify, monitor and evaluate health risks and hazards and institute remedial and preventative measures.
- Surveillance and prevention of communicable diseases: Investigating environmental factors relating to the spread of notifiable infectious diseases and putting measures in place to prevent the spread thereof. Education, health and hygiene promotion programmes are the main tool for equipping communities.
- Environmental pollution control : Ensuring hygienic working, living and recreational environments
- Identifying the polluting agents and sources of water, air and soil pollution.
- Waste Management: Environmental Health is communicating with the relevant department such as Durban Solid Waste by ensuring the proper refuse storage, collection, transportation, transfer and processing, materials recovery and final disposal.

CLEANSING & SOLID WASTES REPRESENTATIVE DID A PRESENTATION ON PROPER WASTE MANAGEMENT WHICH HIGHLIGHTED THE FOLLOWING AREAS :

- The explanation about how Cleansing & Solid Wastes Department operate and hand in hand with community.
- To contribute to a clean and healthy environment.

PARKS, RECREATION 7 CULTURE DEPARTMENT

- Representative from Parks, Recreation and Culture made a presentation about the role of their department including ensuring public gathering facility are kept safe including community stadiums, community halls and vacant land parks.
- Roles and responsibilities include tree feeling, cutting and grass cutting to the communities, City clean and well maintained.

UMNSINSI INANDA DAM

An official from UMnsinsi Inanda Dam conducted a presentation and highlights include their role focuses on water resources stewardship, ecotourism, and sustainable development. Their function include managing the dam and surrounding land for water supply, protecting ecosystems and providing facilities for recreation such as fishing, water sports , and accommodation.

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Questions and answers sessions

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Questions and answers sessions



Vote of thanks by Environmental Health Practitioners

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MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- Health education will be continuously conducted to the school quarterly.
- Integrated team work with other stakeholders will be continuously conducted.
- Routine inspection of school premises and community facilities will be conducted continuously.
- Monitoring of planted trees will be conducted as it was donated by Durban Solid Waste.

CONCLUSION

- Arbor Day was more detailed and informative to the learners and campaign was successful.
- UMngeni Primary School Management and teachers appreciated the campaign that was brought into their school and knowledge that was delivered to the learners by different stakeholders.
- UMngeni Primary School Management and teachers appreciated the education and planting of trees at the school and mentioned that the trees will be taken care of.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- UMngeni Primary School
- Environmental Health Department
- Cleansing & Solid Waste Department
- Parks, Recreation & Culture
- UMnsinsi Inanda Dam



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Report compiled by:

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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICE MANAGER