

KCS NEWSFLASH- 24 March 2017



CLIMATE CHANGE: A CALL TO ACT NOW

On the March 23rd 2017, Gamodubu, a small village sited a few kilometres from Gaborone, known for its landfill, had the privilege to host the Earth Hour Tree Planting event coordinated by WENA Environmental Education and News Trust. The event was forerunning the Earth Hour Commemoration to be celebrated on Saturday 25th March 2017. This will be a historic event as this will be the first time that Earth Hour will be celebrated outside Gaborone.



Ms Seboni making a presentation during the event.

After a warm welcome by the kgosi Samuel Ramotlabaki, Ms Florah Seboni, the Executive Director from WENA Environmental Education and News Trust proceeded to make a presentation on Earth Hour and Climate Change in which she indicated their partnership with the National Assembly since 2012. The partnership was evident as Honourable Wynter Mmolotsi, a member of the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) and Member of Parliament (MP) for Francistown South, and Honourable Polson Majaga of the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) and MP in the Nata/Gweta constituency jointly graced the event. Ms Seboni said the partnership was on climate change issues with the mandate of holding clean technology climate change exhibitions. She said that due to financial constraints, they have not been able to hold the intended exhibitions.

Mr Mmolotsi gave the public an insight on the event and climate change in general. He cited Gaborone Dam as an example, how it used to fill up, yet over the past couple of years it has been on the verge of drying up. Constantly engaging the primary school pupils with questions, Mr Mmolotsi continued to explain that air pollution is one of the causes of climate change. He said air pollution emanates from car emissions (usually old cars), burning of bushes and forests, factories and coal mines are just few examples from many.



Honourable Mmolotsi addressing the public.

“The reason behind the severe heat we experience, the unreliable rainfall and the drought spell that hit Botswana in the past few years is climate change. With all these factors, the welfare of the people together with the economy of Botswana is negatively impacted.” Mr Mmolotsi expressed.

One of the key points stressed was that policies should be strictly enforced because Botswana are still reluctant to disarm the “Climate Change Monster”. It is easy for one to burn a heap of bush but it

becomes a hopeless case when the bush backfires on the environment. This is a clear indication that Batswana are feeding the same monster which is killing the environment.



Mr Majaga planting 'mmilo' tree

To close the event, honourable parliamentary members Mmolotsi and Majaga planted indigenous trees. The planting of trees was necessitated by the pivotal role they play in the environment. Trees help hold the soil together, they capture the carbon dioxide that we release into the atmosphere, use it for their own growth and ultimately give us shade, fruits and wood.

With such a high-profile precursor event to the Earth Hour commemoration day, it is hoped that March 25th will have a much higher turnout with a great representation from the village and that the people of Gamodubu will put to practice the lessons the learnt from the event.

Oarabile Monnawatlala, KCS PR team

The Kalahari Conservation Society

Plot 398, Extension 4

Off Independence Avenue, Kgasa Close

P. O. Box 859

Gaborone, Botswana

Cell: +(267) 75214502

Tel: +(267) 3974557

Fax: +(267) 3914259

Email: publicrelations@kcs.org.bw

website: www.kcs.org.bw