



**CITY OF JOHANNESBURG**

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Joint Statement by

City of Johannesburg Mayor, *Cllr Herman Mashaba*

City of Tshwane Mayor, *Cllr Stevens Mokgalapa*

Midvaal Local Municipality Mayor, *Cllr Bongani Baloyi*

## **#AReSebetsengGauteng - Clean-up campaign expands to other municipalities**

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Today, 6 March 2019, the Executive Mayor, *Cllr Herman Mashaba*, together with the Executive Mayor for the City of Tshwane, *Cllr Stevens Mokgalapa*, and the Executive Mayor of Midvaal Local Municipality, *Cllr Bongani Baloyi*, launched an expansion of the monthly A Re Sebetseng volunteer clean-up campaign to the municipalities of Tshwane and Midvaal.

*A Re Sebetseng* was first launched in Johannesburg in August of 2017. *#AReSebetsengGauteng* will now seek to broaden the spirit of community volunteerism to City of Tshwane and Midvaal Local Municipality, and hopefully, across Gauteng.

Since the inception of the *A Re Sebetseng*, close to 28 000 bags of waste have been collected and approximately 21 500 residents have participated across the City through this community led initiative.

We have seen various communities don gloves and Pikitup bags to clean their local street or public space. It has been nothing short of inspiring to see residents take ownership of their environment, assisting the City to keep our public spaces clean and safe.

We have received pledges of support for *A Re Sebetseng* from many organisation that share our goal of taking ownership of one's surroundings. These include, among many others, the South African National Taxi Council (Santaco), the University of Johannesburg, Coca Cola, Avis Fleet, and Interwaste.

In partnership with Adcock Ingram Critical Care and Netcare, the City assisted schools in providing 1 000 school shoes, made from recycled plastic, were handed over to the children of Masakhane-Tswelopele Primary School in Zandspruit last year.

*#ARESebetsengGauteng* aims to be a non-partisan campaign, bringing together individuals from different communities, works of life and beliefs. As such, we had hoped many other municipalities would have

heeded our invitation to join this great initiative. We hope that as the initiative grows from strength to strength, many more municipalities will come on board.

Executive Mayor Cllr Herman Mashaba says, “I truly believe that *A Re Sebetseng* has the potential to not only change the face of Johannesburg but to also inspire the nation. I look forward to the partnership between the municipalities of Joburg, Midvaal and Tshwane in helping to build cleaner, safer and more connected communities. The people of our respective municipalities will benefit from our collaboration as we ensure the spirit of volunteerism transcends municipal boundaries in Gauteng.”

The Executive Mayor of the Midvaal Local Municipality, Cllr Bongani Baloyi, said, “This volunteer campaign is critical to bettering community participation not only in keeping their respective environments clean, but also to encourage active citizenry. We want our residents to use their platforms to create the change they want to see. I am excited to start the roll out of *#AResebetsengGauteng* across the Midvaal Local Municipality”.

City of Tshwane Executive Mayor Cllr Stevens Mokgalapa, said, “The City of Tshwane has always encouraged environmental awareness and getting communities to take charge of keeping their neighbourhoods clean. In June 2018 we launched a Tswelopele Clean-Up Campaign which attracted volunteers from around the city and multiple sponsors at inception. It is against this background that we decided to join hands with our peers and adopt the *#AResebetseng* brand going forward so that we can collectively keep the Province of Gauteng Clean.”

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