

MEDIA STATEMENT | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

33 Schools, One Mandate: Communities Come Together to Mark Earth Day Across Johannesburg

Seriti Institute, in partnership with Breathe Cities, the City of Johannesburg, and 33 community-based organisations, has successfully delivered a coordinated Earth Day, with a focus on air quality, activation across 33 schools in Regions A to G.

Bringing together learners, educators, and community leaders, the initiative created meaningful spaces for environmental learning and action. Across Johannesburg, young people were not only introduced to key environmental issues but were actively involved in shaping solutions within their own school environments.

Activations took place across schools in Soweto, Alexandra, Diepsloot, Orange Farm, Eldorado Park, Roodepoort, and surrounding communities, reflecting a shared commitment to building cleaner and healthier spaces for all.

At Willow Crescent Secondary School, the activations were further strengthened by the presence of the MEC for the Gauteng Department of Environment, Ewan Botha, whose attendance highlighted the importance of collaboration between communities and leadership in advancing environmental awareness.

Activities included tree planting, recycling demonstrations, and interactive sessions on air pollution and waste management. These engagements focused on practical actions that learners can carry forward beyond the day. These are not mere trees, but a long-term commitment to cleaner air.

What stood out most was the response from learners. Their curiosity, energy, and openness to learning reflected a growing awareness of their role in caring for the environment and supporting the wellbeing of their communities.

“What we witnessed across Johannesburg was more than an Earth Day activation. It was a clear demonstration of what is possible when communities, young people, and partners come together with a shared purpose. Seeing learners not only engage, but take ownership of environmental action, reminds us that the future of our communities is already being shaped on the ground today,” said **Harmony Khoza, Community Response Manager at Seriti Institute**.

This initiative forms part of the Breathe Better Together project, which continues to support community-led responses to environmental issues, with a focus on long-term air quality awareness, participation, and sustainable change.

As we move beyond Earth Day, the focus remains on nurturing this momentum and supporting communities to continue taking action in ways that are meaningful, practical, and lasting.

Ends.

Annexure A: Participating Community-Based Organisations and Schools

Community-Based Organisation	School	Location
SALSO	Thabo Secondary School	Soweto, Naledi
Kasi Lethu	Emadlweni Primary School	Soweto, Dlamini
Shomang Sebenzani	Iphutheng Primary School	Alexandra

Empowerment Hub	Nomzamo Madikizela Primary School	Soweto, Braam Fischerville
In Touch	Imbali Combined School	Orange Farm Ext 1
Sikhulisa Intsha Yethu	Naturena Primary school	Naturena
Qalakabusha	R W Fick secondary School	Bosmont- 4 Muizenberg Ave
The Empire Bus	Heerangracht Primary School	Eldorado Park
Tshepang program for OVCs	De Adelaar Hoerskool	Roodepoort, Groblerspark
Enviro Green	Batsogile Primary School	Pimville
Khoroni	Moyisela Primary School	Orange Farm Ext 7 Ward 3
Bontle ke Thlago	Bambanani Primary School	Diepsloot
Sankofa	Alexandra Secondary School	Alexandra
Mmangweta	Betrans Junior	Betrans Ward 66
Azania Afrika	Kelokitso Comprehensive	Meadowlands Zone 9
Spirit Filled Women	JB Marks Primary School	Braamfischerville
Itsoseng Women's Project	Reamohetsoe Primary School	Orange Farm
Hlokomelo	Skyline Combined School	Roodepoort Ward 127
Earthly Touch	Leap Science & Maths School	Diepsloot Ext 6
Green Hope Foundation	New Hope foundation	Diepsloot- ext 10
Kwande Eco Enviro	Madiba Primary School	Lanesia
Riendzo development	Ebomini Primary School	Midrand-Ivory park
Exotically Divine	Turnfontein Primary School	66 park road turffontein
Nhlalala Nature	Diepsloot Secondary Schhol	Diepsloot
NKA	Babedi Primary School	Diepkloof Zone 3
Mohodi SA	Diepsloot Combine School	Diepsloot
Enzokuhle	Qhoboshiane Primary School	Diepkloof
Insighteey	Ipolokeng Primary School	Diepkloof Zone 3
New Pathways	Willow Crescent Secondary School	Eldorado Park
Mo Afrika ithlokomele	Tshebedisano Primary School	Pimville Zone E
Atlegang bana	DSJ Primary School	Dobsonville
Project Literacy	Realeboga-Primary School	Zanspruit
The Wykes Foundation	Everest Primary- Dowling street	Westbury

High-resolution images and video footage are available in the link below for media use:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1AAKnXGWO-3aLHMY72k0VWexcps4vd0W?usp=sharing>