



## MINISTRY OF FORESTRY AND ENVIRONMENT CELEBRATES GREEN FRIDAY AT MAKOTOKO PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Ministry of Forestry and Environment marked the Green Friday initiative at Makotoko Primary School in Metolong, as part of the broader Green Recovery Movement. The initiative aims to promote massive tree planting (reforestation), encourage sustainable practices, reduce pollution, and actively engage communities through activities such as health walks and environmental education, all geared towards building a greener and more sustainable future for Lesotho.

Green Friday is a community-driven initiative designed to combat climate change and deforestation through practical, hands-on efforts. The programme is implemented regularly across various districts in Lesotho, bringing together government institutions, development partners, and local communities to collectively safeguard the environment.

Speaking at the event, Ms MabathoNthejane, the Maseru District Coordinator, stated that the objective of the gathering was to strengthen collaboration among participating organisations in accelerating and enhancing a green environment. She highlighted the importance of planting fruit and cosmetic trees as part of long-term environmental sustainability and community development.

During the occasion, the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) 's Mohale Branch, Biologist and Terrestrial Officer MrsMasetsabelo Moqekela expressed her appreciation to all organisations that contributed to the success of the event. She acknowledged RENOKA and World Vision for their unity and the unwavering commitment to environmental conservation and appealed to partners to continue working together in service of the communities they support.

Ntsoaki Makoa, a learner at Makotoko Primary School, conveyed the school's gratitude for the donation, noting that learners have been taught the importance of trees and how to care for them. She expressed confidence that the trees would grow well and bear good fruit. Adding a community perspective, Mr Leluma Moshoeshe, a villager from Boithatelo–Metolong, encouraged residents to work together in maintaining and protecting developments brought into their villages.

The Principal of Makotoko Primary School, MsMahlomelang Lebabo, echoed sentiments of appreciation and assured stakeholders that the donated trees would not only benefit the school but also the surrounding community and the nation at large.

The event was graced by the Minister of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation, HonourableLetsema Adontši, who quoted a biblical verse from the Book of Genesis. He remarked that the initiative symbolised bringing light to Boithatelo, drawing parallels to the Garden of Eden where diverse trees were planted. As he officially handed over the trees, the Minister emphasised that they were intended to benefit the community and appealed for their proper care. In a light-hearted moment, he requested that the first fruit be reserved for him. He concluded by thanking all organisations that continue to work tirelessly hand in hand with his ministry to ensure that communities across the country are supported.