

MEDIA RELEASE PSA supports Arbour Week 2026

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As South Africa observes Arbour Week from 1 September 2026, the Public Servants Association (PSA) calls on all citizens to embrace this year's focus on sustainable environmental management, greening communities, and championing indigenous trees.

Arbour Week is a national call to protect the natural systems that sustain life, strengthen communities, and build resilience against the growing impacts of climate change. For generations, trees have provided shade, food, medicine, shelter, and clean air. Indigenous trees are uniquely adapted to South Africa's climate and ecosystems, requiring less water while supporting local birds, insects, and wildlife, improving soil quality, reducing erosion, and strengthening biodiversity. By protecting and planting indigenous trees, South Africa invests in a healthier and more sustainable future.

The significance of Arbour Week has increased as climate change intensifies. Rising temperatures, prolonged droughts, severe floods, and increasingly unpredictable weather patterns are placing growing pressure on communities and public infrastructure. Trees remain one of the most effective natural tools for reducing these impacts. Expanding indigenous tree cover is therefore an environmental responsibility as well as an economic and social necessity.

Arbour Week is a stern reminder that environmental protection cannot be left only to conservationists or government departments. It requires collective action from every citizen, every community, and every public institution. Public servants, as custodians of public resources and providers of essential services, are uniquely positioned to lead by example by protecting indigenous trees, greening public spaces, and promoting sustainable environmental practices.

The PSA is supporting the initiative as the Union's offices across the Country will be planting indigenous trees at identified beneficiaries during September in pursuit of a greener future.

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