



# **Dan & Rose Qeqe Foundation Environmental Awareness Side Event Report**

**Cultivating Community Champions: A Collaborative Approach to ensure inclusive development**  
**Edited by Lehlohonolo Mokerotlo**

# Tree planting

- **Date:** 02/12/2025
- **Location:** New Brighton, Gqeberha
- **Participating Primary Schools:** Pendla (Host), Charles Duna, and Molefe
- **Organised by:** Dan & Rose Qeqe Foundation
- **Partner government departments:** Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality and Forestry, Fishery & Environment
- **Partner NPO:** Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network



## Activities Conducted

### Tree Planting Demonstration

The Department of Environmental Management led a live demonstration on effective and correct tree planting techniques.

Two indigenous trees were planted:

- ❖ Olive Tree
- ❖ Waterberry Tree

The demonstration covered:

- ❖ Correct soil preparation
- ❖ Root positioning
- ❖ Watering methods
- ❖ Long-term tree maintenance

### Youth Engagement & Learning

Learners participated actively and were taught:

- ❖ The importance of indigenous trees
- ❖ The role of trees in climate resilience
- ❖ Basic environmental stewardship
- ❖ The connection between healthy ecosystems and community wellbeing



## Observations

- Despite the rain, a powerful moment unfolded as partners planted trees together.
- Fun filled Sports Day
- Learners showed high levels of curiosity and enthusiasm.
- Learners inquisitively engaged and asked questions about tree growth, environmental careers, and climate change.
- The demonstration fostered positive government-community relations.
- The activity revealed an untapped interest among learners in
  - ❖ Environmental management
  - ❖ Sustainability studies
  - ❖ Climate-smart Agriculture



## Key Outcomes

- ❖ 3 schools received environmental education
- ❖ Over 300 learners impacted
- ❖ Trees planted, strengthening greening efforts
- ❖ Partnership model established for future replication
- ❖ DRQF & CSAYN credibility strengthened
- ❖ Community pride restored, even in the rain



## Impact Assessment



### Environmental Stewardship – Tree Planting Initiative

#### **This symbolized:**

- ❖ Commitment to climate action (SDG 13) through carbon absorption and climate resilience
- ❖ Greener school environments (SDG 15, Life on Land) - restoring ecosystems and enhancing biodiversity; (SDG 11, Sustainable Communities) by greening school environments;
- ❖ SDG 4 (Quality Education) through hands-on environmental learning; and
- ❖ SDG 17 (Partnerships) by uniting government, private partners, schools and civil society in a shared sustainability effort.
- ❖ Youth involvement in sustainability initiatives
- ❖ It showed children that climate action is not just spoken about – it is done.
- ❖ The environmental component successfully introduced learners to practical sustainability concepts and inspired potential career interest in environmental fields.
- ❖ It strengthened community awareness and showcased how environmental education can be integrated into youth development program.

## Future Plans for DRQF

Organic growth of each pillar programmes



### Community Involvement

We explore opportunities to involve local businesses and organisations, fostering a sense of community ownership and support for the programme's goals.



### Collaboration Opportunities

DRQF intends to strengthen its collaboration with organizations to enhance the implementation of programs that connect children with coaches, new content, mentors or role models, offering guidance and support throughout their holistic development journey.

## Partnership Benefits: A Win-Win Collaboration

### DRQF

This collaboration will enhance our programme offerings by incorporating NMBM, DFFE, & CSAYN expertise and expand our reach within the community.

### CSAYN

The partnership offers a valuable opportunity for the collaborator to demonstrate their commitment to partnership with South African local changemakers



## Contact Us

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