



## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

### **TO ALL RESIDENTS OF EMALAHLENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**

#### **AWARENESS ON BIO-MASS BURNING**

02 April 2025

Emalahleni Local Municipality would like to bring to your attention an important matter that affects our environment and, ultimately, our health. It has come to our notice that biomass burning is taking place within our municipality, which must be addressed urgently.

Emalahleni Local Municipality is situated in the Highveld Priority Area, an area recognized for its poor air quality and high levels of pollution. Biomass burning, including the burning of agricultural waste, household waste, and vegetation, significantly contributes to air pollution and poses serious health risks to both humans and animals.

The smoke emitted from biomass burning contains hazardous pollutants such as particulate matter (PM), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NOx), and various other toxic chemicals. These pollutants have been linked to respiratory issues, cardiovascular problems, increased risk of cancer, and overall deterioration of well-being.

As responsible members of this community, it is crucial that we take immediate action to reduce biomass burning. Here are some steps we can collectively follow:

1. Educate ourselves: Learn about the harmful effects of biomass burning on our health and environment. Understand why it is necessary to find alternative methods for waste disposal or energy production.
2. Spread awareness: Share this information with friends, family, neighbours, and colleagues. Encourage them to join hands in eliminating biomass burning from our community.
3. Promote sustainable alternatives: Support initiatives that promote sustainable waste management practices such as recycling programs, composting facilities, or renewable energy projects.
4. Report incidents: If you witness any instances of biomass burning taking place in your vicinity or within Emalahleni Local Municipality boundaries, report them immediately to the local authorities or environmental agencies.
5. Engage with local government: Urge Emalahleni Local Municipality to prioritize the reduction of biomass burning and enforce stricter regulations to discourage this harmful practice.

By taking these steps, we can collectively make a significant difference in improving air quality and protecting our health. Remember, Emalahleni Local Municipality is part of the Highveld Priority Area, where it becomes even more crucial for us to address this issue promptly.

Let us unite as a community and work together towards creating a cleaner and healthier environment for ourselves and future generations.

#### **Contact:**

Environmental Management Office  
013 690 6451  
environmental@emalahleni.gov.za

