

# 95 trees planted by Miss Earth ambassadors ahead of Mandela Day

In anticipation of Mandela Day, Solwazi Primary School in Orange Farm has received 95 trees planted by Miss Earth South Africa, together with Fourways Farmers Market, Reliance Compost, Consol, UTI and Garnier South Africa.



The organisation decided to honour the former statesman by planting one tree for every year of his life. The project was hosted ahead of International Mandela Day, to coincide with the national semi-finalists' Johannesburg trip, which saw all of the recently announced Green Glamazons in Gauteng, with just six weeks to go to the gala event.

## A green make-over for Solwazi Primary

Solwazi Primary School was founded just three years ago, and is nestled deep within Gauteng's "forgotten township", Orange Farm. The school, which has been formally adopted by the Miss Earth South Africa organisation, is without electricity and, until recently, was without running water as well, which made it impossible to sustain any trees.

That, however, has all changed, largely thanks to the efforts of the Miss Earth South Africa organisation. "One of the incredible teachers at Solwazi, Mrs Magwaza, has worked with us for years in Orange Farm and when she brought Solwazi Primary onto our radar there was no way we couldn't help," said Ella Bella, the Miss Earth South Africa's educational officer. "There wasn't a single tree for the children to sit under, not so much as a blade of grass, and now they have 95 trees to choose from and soon they'll have their very own sustainable food garden as well."

Nelson Mandela has, throughout his life, inspired greatness in those with whom he comes into contact, and when Miss Earth South Africa national director, Catherine Constantinides met him the effect was no less profound. "Meeting Tata inspired me in ways I cannot begin to explain; his life and his legacy motivate me each and every day, to be a better person, to touch people's lives, to change the world," Constantinides explains. Since being named Miss Earth South Africa in 2003, Constantinides has made humanitarian work a priority in her life, through her work in rural Cambodia, to her work in the townships of South Africa. Over the past decade, the organisation that was born of Constantinides' dream to change the world has touched hundreds of thousands of lives and created sustainable change across South Africa.

With the assistance of Earth Outdoor Living Nursery and the Fourways Farmers Market, Miss Earth South Africa will, over the course of the coming months, complete a full "green make-over" at Solwazi Primary School. In addition, the ladies and winners of this year's leadership programme will return to Orange Farm to assist with classroom refurbishment at Solwazi. The 2013 Miss Earth South Africa winners will be announced at a gala function on 17 August at Tsogo Sun's Montecasino ballroom. If you would like to volunteer your time or services to the organisation and be a part of this initiative, contact the Miss Earth South Africa organisation by emailing [office@missearthsouthafrica.co.za](mailto:office@missearthsouthafrica.co.za).

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