

Sunday, Sinazongwe (22<sup>nd</sup> June 2025)



### **CEJ HANDS OVER 30,000-SEEDLING NURSERY SHED TO GOVERNMENT IN SINAZONGWE**

The Centre for Environment Justice (CEJ) has handed over a community nursery shed to host 30,000 seedlings to the government through Makonkoto Primary School and the Forestry Department in Sinazongwe District, Southern Province.

This came to light during a handover ceremony under the Resilient Initiatives for Sustainable Environment (RISE) Project funded by Bread for the World Germany.

CEJ Board Representative Emmanuel Mutamba described the nursery as a powerful symbol of collective commitment to restoring the environment through education and reforestation.

Mr Mutamba said the facility is expected to serve as a vital hub for growing seedlings, promoting reforestation, and advancing environmental education among young learners.

He added that the shed will now support conservation activities while nurturing a culture of environmental stewardship in the district.

Earlier, Centre for Environment Justice (CEJ) Executive Director Maggie Mapalo Mwape reaffirmed the organisation's commitment to sustainability and youth empowerment.

Ms Mwape highlighted the importance of the facility, calling it a "symbol of hope, collaboration, and shared commitment" to nurturing the environment for future generations.

She explained that the shed will support seedling production, environmental learning, and sustainable land practices under the RISE Project.

Sinazongwe District Administrative Officer Brian Siwelwa, speaking on behalf of Sinazongwe District Commissioner Nchimunya Siakole, commended the collaboration between CEJ, government departments, and development partners, noting that such partnerships are key to building a thriving and sustainable district.

At the same function, Sinazongwe District Forestry Department Officer Obvious Mutelele said the nursery shed is a milestone in advancing local environmental restoration and climate action.

Mr Mutelele described the shed by CEJ as a vital asset that will enhance the Forestry Department's capacity to grow indigenous tree species, support reforestation, and promote sustainable land use practices in collaboration with the school and community.

And Sinazongwe District Education Board Secretary (DEBS) Francis Hamfwiti, in a speech delivered on his behalf by Sinazongwe District Education Standards Officer (DESO) Zevour Mukuwa, said the nursery shed will strengthen environmental education in schools and communities.

Mr Hamfwiti described the facility as a transformative tool for learning, saying it would enhance students' understanding of conservation through hands-on experience in tree planting and environmental stewardship.

He emphasised that the initiative aligns with the district's educational goals of holistic development and sustainability.

Mr Hamfwiti called on students, teachers, and the Forestry Department to embrace the nursery shed as a platform for environmental action.

Head Teacher of Makonkoto Primary/Secondary School, Obed Nchite, emphasised that the shed will help nurture both seedlings and a generation of environmentally conscious citizens.

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