Bosmont and UJ PEETS Celebrate Community-Led Environmental Progress

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As South Africa celebrates 30 years of democracy, the Bosmont community reflects on a journey marked by resilience, collaboration, and a commitment to environmental stewardship. This milestone underscores a significant achievement: upholding Section 24 of the South African Constitution, which guarantees the right to a healthy environment. This constitutional mandate not only ensures the protection of the environment for present and future generations but also calls for preventing pollution, promoting conservation, and fostering sustainable development.

In partnership with the <u>University of Johannesburg's Process, Energy and Environmental Technology Station (UJ PEETS)</u>, <u>Bosmont NGO Comm-unity Green Projects (CGP)</u>, has made remarkable strides in addressing local environmental challenges while fostering social cohesion and community empowerment. Together, they have enhanced the community's understanding of their constitutional rights and identified practical actions to safeguard their environment. A recent community perception survey revealed that 30.2% of residents believe their tap water is unsafe to drink, highlighting the urgency of ongoing efforts to improve environmental conditions.

Collaborative initiatives, such as the Green Fest, have been instrumental in raising awareness and sparking dialogue around conservation, sustainability, and community-driven solutions between local business and communities. These efforts have united residents, industry stakeholders, and academic partners, setting the stage for co-created solutions to pressing environmental issues.

Bosmont and UJ PEETS have taken pro-active measures to address urgent environmental challenges through community-driven research. Programs like water quality monitoring and air pollution assessments have given the community important knowledge about the condition of their surroundings. Highlighting important areas for development, this partnership has given the Bosmont community a strong sense of ownership and given them the ability to shape UJ PEETS's research program.

Looking ahead, the Bosmont community, with continued support from UJ PEETS, remains committed to addressing environmental challenges. Future projects will focus on educational outreach, community cleanup drives, and fostering partnerships with local businesses to promote sustainable practices. These initiatives will further cement Bosmont's position as a model for community-led environmental action, ensuring that the area remains a beacon of progress for years to come.

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