

RECYCLING INITIATIVE FOR ENCLOSED ZONES, RESIDENT'S ASSOCIATIONS and COMPLEXES.

November 2010

Recycling is a phenomenon of the 21st Century, and a response to consumerism. It's an attempt to reduce waste mountains piling up and polluting the water systems, to reduce the depletion of earth's natural resources and reduce the amount of plastic being dumped under the ocean. As Christmas approaches and our minds focus on accumulating things, it's as well to remember that we cannot separate ourselves from the junk we generate.

The part of Christmas that is often forgotten deals with goodwill . redemption, sacrifice and love of our fellows. It's difficult nowadays to separate those qualities from a love of the earth. There are many allusions to wisdom in the old and new testament, and to the progressive triad of understanding, wisdom and oneness; in proverbs in particular to experiential wisdom as a response to the environment, and an attempt to understand and cope with it.

It is surely aligned with the spirit of Christmas to respect the work that goes into producing our convenience packages and to take the trouble to return, to those who reuse them, what would otherwise be harmful waste, discarded without a thought for the earth or its inhabitants.

While Proven Gordhan has declared war on waste, MamaEarth has initiated a crusade against waste. We have set up an experimental recycling point in the enclosed zone in Sandton, were I live. It is a partnership between our neighborhood and a well run recycling project in Alex, funded by government. Any other enclosed zone, resident's association or large complex in Sandton or Johannesburg North, willing to join the pilot is encouraged to phone MamaEarth. We will give you the details of the program and you may even be provided bins free of charge. As more people come on stream they will need to pay for the bins but the collection is free provided the material warrants it. The bins are attractive colors of yellow, orange, blue, white and red. They store paper, glass, cans, plastics and technology, such as globes, batteries, phones and anything that fits into a standard wheelie bin.

At MamaEarth foundation we say that "each of us has one life, all of us share one earth; everything is connected; our actions have a ripple effect around the globe. Hence, talking today is futile, if it does not lead to action tomorrow." Recycling is a small step to take but it contributes to the overall theme of caring for our earth home. Let's reduce, reuse and recycle and feel better by doing good in our homes and neighborhood, while supporting a job creation project in Alex.

