

MONTIGNY TAKES “WE ADD VALUE” TO A NEW LEVEL

MAKING one of the boldest environmental statements in Swaziland’s history, Montigny shines on the 10-year anniversary of Earth Hour with a strong commitment to sustainability by pulling the plug on their Bhunya Sawmills and the entire Mhlambanyatsi Village.

Montigny is making a statement on their commitment to sustainability, as one of Swaziland’s largest enterprises, in observance of the 10th anniversary of Earth Hour.

Earth Hour is the world’s largest collective demonstration supporting action on climate change.

The hour will be celebrated this Saturday, March the 25th with an event hosted by the SEC at UN-SWA Luyengo, with Montigny leading the way as a key sponsor.

Montigny kicked off this week by celebrating World Forestry Day on March 21 with a donation of 100 indigenous trees. This forms part of a set of direct actions the company is taking to tackle climate change.

The company started the day with a planting ceremony at their Bhunya headquarters before visiting the six schools on their Usutu Estate, which includes Bhunya and Mhlambanyatsi with the 100 trees, purchased from Guba Permaculture Farm.

The trees were donated to schools in the hope of promoting the conservation of Swaziland’s incredible indigenous biodiversity. Schools were greeted by Montigny’s Forestry Manager Jurgens Kritzinger who manages Montigny’s 73 000 ha Usutu estate, including the plantation’s conservation areas.

In line with this year’s Earth Hour theme ‘Switch

off to join the future’, Montigny’s CEO has requested that the entire company, with 6,700 employees and dependents and over 2,000 tenants in the villages on the Usutu Estate, switch off in observance of the impactful, world-wide demonstration. In a letter to the company and villages, Rijkenberg offered his family’s commitment as an example.

“As a forestry company, we are planting trees today that we will only harvest in 20 years time. This action speaks louder than words in relation to sustainability. We should all take climate change seriously to ensure that there is a future for us and the generations to follow.”

The move to power down the sawmills during a shift change and pull the plug on the Mhlambanyatsi Village for one short hour is an unprecedented move in Swaziland by a company increasingly committed to promoting a culture of sustainability for Swaziland’s future.

The company’s ethos centres around maximising the value of every tree, ensuring nothing of this valuable natural resource is wasted. This is nothing new to the Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) certified company.

The company’s practices and forests are audited every year by this independent internationally recognised body. Montigny is taking this commitment a step forward by developing a renewable energy biomass power plant, which can supply 23 per cent of the country’s energy and create 200 jobs.

The company also runs a Forestry Extension Wattle Programme focused on rehabilitating wattle jungles into smallholder plantations, controlling the spread of this invasive species.



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... company remains a national leader in sustainability

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MONTIGNY

"we add value"

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