



# STEVE TSHWETE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Telephone (013) 2497053  
Fax (013) 2432550

Your ref.

Our ref.

P O Box 14  
MIDDELBURG,  
MPUMALANGA  
1050

**02 December 2014**

---

## **Media release**

### **Hefty fines for residents who damage municipal trees.**

The STLM Physical and Environmental Development (Parks and Recreation) Department is seriously concerned about an increasing number of residents removing or pruning street trees and other trees owned by the municipality without permission.

The so-called topping of trees is also illegal and is seen as damage to municipal property. Fines of up to R5, 000 per tree can be imposed, as it is an offence and contravenes the Physical and Environmental Development and Street Trees By-laws that came into force in 2005.

No member of the public may remove any tree under the custodianship of the municipality as it is not in favour of removing street trees, but within reason, written permission may be granted.

The municipality will consider removing, pruning and replacing established trees, shrubs and plants if any dead trees or shrubs on pavements are seen to present a danger to the public and the cost thereof shall be for the account of the municipality.

However trees on pavements damaged by the public, shall be removed or pruned and the municipality may, at its discretion hold the offender liable and prosecute for removal and replacement costs.

Tree roots causing damage may be removed and trees causing danger on pavements may be pruned back, and the municipality may also prune back trees on private property back to the boundary.

All requests and complaints concerning trees and their removal shall only be considered if in writing and addressed to the municipality. However trees shall not be removed because they drop leaves, seedpods, seeds, ooze glue, or because of a similar complaint and anybody removing a tree in contravention of these By-Laws will be held liable for the value of the tree.

Enquiries: Prudence Magutle:  
Tel number: 013 249 7053

E-mail: pmagutle@stlm.gov.za

Yours sincerely

  
**MUNICIPAL MANAGER**