

## ARBOR Day Awareness and Celebration



**Arbor Day** (from the Latin *arbor*, meaning tree) is a day in which individuals and groups are encouraged to plant and care for trees. It originated in Nebraska City, Nebraska, United States by J. Sterling Morton. The first Arbor Day was held in the state of Nebraska on April 10, 1872; an estimated one million trees were planted that day. Today, many countries observe a similar practice. Though usually observed in the spring, the date varies, depending on climate and suitable planting season, however here in South Africa it is celebrated in the 1st week of September which symbolizes the beginning of spring. Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality visited schools within the District namely Bolata Intermediate, Manthatisi High and Mojalefa Primary to educate and raise awareness about the importance of trees in our society. Hand washing and water saving tips were demonstrated before going out on the school yards to plant the trees, which were donated by all the different stakeholders involved in this initiative.