

To keep S/J thromde clean



Tshewang Penjore

S/Jongkhar: Coinciding with the World Environment Day on Tuesday, Samdrup Jongkhar thromde launched a “zero waste” manual developed by Samdrup Jongkhar Initiative (SJI) to help residents keep the thromde clean.

During the launch, an SJI

team sensitized the occupants of National Housing Development Corporation Limited (NHDCL) residential blocks on SJI’s strategies and the manual.

Samdrup Jongkhar Thrompon Karma Sherub Thobgyal said that the main objective of the pilot project was to minimize waste production and encourage

the people to segregate wastes. The thrompon said the project which was launched in the NHDCL residential blocks will be replicated in other parts of the thromde depending on its success.

The director of SJI, Tshewang Dhendup, said he was very happy with the thromde for taking up such a project.

A total of 18 plastic waste bins were distributed by the thromde to the residents of nine NHDCL residential blocks. Each block consisting of six units received two waste bins, one for bio-degradable wastes and another for non-biodegradable.

The residents have been instructed to take care and maintain the waste bins, which were provided by the thromde for free.

Thromde Environment Officer Sonam Pelden said objectives of providing the waste bins to the people were not only to curb waste problem but also help the residents segregate waste at source so that not all wastes will be dumped in land fields.

The SJI director highlighted the significance of segregating wastes at source. He said landfills which have ten years of life span will be filled within a short period of time if such initiatives are not taken.

The SJI director said if the initiative is well received

by the people, the money needed to construct a landfill will be utilized to construct a children’s park in the town.

The thromde environment officer said the thromde will collect waste twice a week. The thromde also plans to earn some money by selling manure and non-biodegradable wastes.

The environment officer said the thromde administration is optimistic about getting a collective effort and cooperation from the residents. Sonam Pelden said it’s vital that the residents of housing colony set an example to others through this pilot project.

The residents who will fail to abide by the notification to follow the “zero waste” manual will be punished and fined. A resident of the NHDCL blocks, Tenzin Zangmo, said segregation of waste should not be a problem even to an illiterate resident.

About Nu 68,000 was spent to buy the waste bins.