



environment, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 426 {NW481E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 4 of 2021

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Mr M N Paulsen (EFF) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

In view of the finding of a report by the World Wide Fund for Nature South Africa that an estimated 10 million tonnes of food goes to waste in the Republic annually, and that water and energy costs mean that food wastage comes at a very high price to the economy and environment, what programmes does her department have in place to reduce food wastage in the Republic?

426. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

The National Waste Management Strategy (NWMS), 2020 is a key strategy driving waste minimisation and waste diversion to landfill by 45% by 2025. The NWMS, 2020 intervention on food waste reduction is also a response to Sustainable Development Goal: 12: responsible consumption and production.

In line with the NWMS the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) influenced the following:

- a. A collaborative partnership with Consumer Goods Council of South Africa (CGCSA) that drives initiatives on food waste prevention and minimisation. This partnership includes the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition and it focuses on utilising funding through the SA-EU Dialogue Facility for the food and plastic waste prevention and reduction programme.

- b. The approval of the Partnering for Green Growth and Global Goals Flawless Scale-Up Project Funding to scale-up Public-Private Partnerships aimed at reducing 50% food loss and waste by 2030.
- c. The launch of the South African Food Loss and Waste Voluntary Agreement in September 2020, committing CGCSA food manufacturing and retail members to implement measures to minimise and reduce food waste in the country. The Department endorsed the launch and is one of the associate signatories as well as a member of the Advisory Committee to this Voluntary Agreement.
- d. The reduction and prevention of Food and Packaging Waste in South Africa (from farm to fork) initiative has commenced, with technical assistance from the SA-EU Dialogue Facility.
- e. The Department, jointly with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), has developed a Food Waste Prevention and Management Guideline. The guideline includes information on the drivers and possible actions that can be taken to prevent and manage food waste throughout the food supply. The guide aims to assist South Africa to decouple economic development and food wastage at the consumer level of the food supply chain.

A Food Loss and Waste Strategy is planned for development in the 2021/22 Departmental Annual Performance Plan. This focused strategy on preventing and reducing food loss and waste will ensure that there is increased awareness on the impact of food waste, and will map out the determinants of food waste generation to deepen the understanding of household practices and help design food waste prevention strategies.

Regards



**MS B D CREECY, MP
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

DATE: 11/3/2021