



## **environmental affairs**

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**Ref:02/1/5/2**

**MINISTER**

**QUESTION NO. 1224 FOR WRITTEN REPLY: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

A draft reply to **Ms J Steenkamp (DA)** to the above-mentioned question is enclosed for your consideration.

**MR ALF WILLS  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL (ACTING)**

**DATE:**

**DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED**

**MRS B E E MOLEWA, MP  
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

**DATE:**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**(For written reply)**

**QUESTION NO. 1224**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 9 of 2015 {NW1430E}**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION: 27 March 2015**

**Ms J Steenkamp (DA) to ask the Minister of Environmental Affairs:**

- (1) Does her department, with reference to the Medium Term Expenditure Framework allocations in which her department has prioritised certain goals, which include (a) job creation for youth at a municipal level and (b) piloting separation of waste at its source, have any plans in place to reach its prioritised goals; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details of such plans;
- (2) does her department have any plans in place to (a) initiate and (b) incentivise a ban on plastic products at landfill sites; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) does her department have any plans in place to increase the number of recycling facilities; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) does her department have any plans in place to (a) incentivise and (b) increase take back initiatives for recyclable waste; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (5) does her department intend to take any steps to force companies to take back their waste products and recycle it themselves; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? NW1430E

**1224. THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPLIES:**

(1)(a) Yes, the department has youth development initiatives country wide, which take place within different municipalities. These include Youth Jobs in Waste and Youth Environmental Services programmes. The number of young people participating in these programmes is 5 764.

(b) Yes, the department has plans to develop Industry Waste Management Plans (IndWMPs) for the following waste streams, for now we are implementing 2 waste streams, namely, Plastic and Tyre. We will be announcing 3 additional waste streams during our policy speech this year. Other than the management of the waste streams themselves, these IndWMPs have a focus on job creation and Small Micro and Medium Enterprises (SMME) development. The targets for job creation will then be set within the respective IndWMPs. There are also programmes relating to Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) also aimed at creating jobs from waste management programmes.

The Paper and Packaging IndWMP referred to above will specifically be targeting separation at source. The IndWMP will ensure that the necessary systems and infrastructure for separation at source are put in place.

(2)(a) Through the IndWMPs for specific waste streams. The most appropriate way to deal with plastics is to provide mechanisms that ensure the diversion of plastics from landfill by establishing separation at source and other supporting segregation systems such a Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs) as well as facilitating the uptake of the plastic material into re-use, recycling and/or recovery processes which are all part of our policy and implementation plan.

(b) The department through the Waste Management Bureau will be incentivising diversion of waste from landfill sites as the IndWMPs are implemented. The Waste Bureau will, among other functions, be responsible for disbursement of the incentives derived from the implementation of IndWMP relating to plastic.

(3) Yes, there is a strong move towards a recycling economy, with an intention of increasing revenue generated from waste recycling. This will obviously require the increase in the number of recycling facilities. Also, as explained above, the main purpose for IndWMPs is to promote waste stream management in alignment with the waste hierarchy (promoting reuse, recycling and

recovery over disposal to land). The IndWMPs therefore have to support establishing systems, processes and relevant infrastructure to ensure that waste is managed in alignment with the waste hierarchy. Currently, the department has commenced with waste tyres.. This model will be replicated for the other waste streams that are to be announced.

- (4)(a) Yes, the tool that the department has chosen as the preferred one for managing plastic waste is the IndWMP as explained above. Hence, incentives will be through participation in the IndWMP and disbursement of the incentives by the Waste Management Bureau. The return schemes for waste streams may not always be suitable in all cases. The costs of setting up such systems, the monetary value of the specific product that results in the targeted waste stream as well as the potential incentive (amount of money) to be received by people returning such items are important aspects to consider. Both regulatory and economic instruments are used to promote recycling and to ensure waste diversion from landfill sites.
- (b) The Product Responsibility Organisations (PROs) through their IndWMPs will be taking back the recyclable material and role players will be incentivised according to the plans they have or waste they bring to the plan. In addition, it is always important to build on the existing systems especially in cases where we need to optimise job creation. The IndWMP will build on the already existing systems, which are inclusive of the existing SMME sector for taking back waste. Several voluntary schemes dealing with various waste streams have already been operating in the country for many years.
- (5) The concept of IndWMPs is indeed based on the principle of producer responsibility. This tool is implemented by placing a legal obligation on producers to manage their respective waste streams more responsibly. In this regard producers are responsible, through the development of an IndWMP, to come up with ways of managing their waste streams in a manner that is aligned to the waste hierarchy.

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