



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT SUMMIT RESOLUTIONS

9 - 11 MARCH 2015

WHITE RIVER
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

Theme **“War on Waste, Driving the
recycling economy in South Africa”**

We, the delegates of the National Waste Management Summit that took place at the Ingwenyama Conference Centre in White River, in Mpumalanga Province, on the 9th-11th of March 2015, based on the Summit Theme “**War on Waste, Driving the recycling economy in South Africa**” which included government, industry, civil society, communities, organised labour academia, NGOs, NPOs, state owned entities, research institutions and the general public,

Acknowledge that:

- Waste Management is an integral part of our lives and therefore needs to be prioritised.
- Improper waste management in South Africa poses a serious challenge to society.
- A radical approach is required in order to “**turn the tide**” to intensify this “**War on Waste**”.
- Unsafe, unhealthy and undignified conditions continue to be perpetuated on our landfill sites.
- Transformation and levelling the playing fields are required in order to promote socio-economic reforms in the Waste Sector.
- The current waste generation and disposal practices need to be urgently tackled.
- There is a need to realize that “*business as usual*” in waste management is inadequate.
- There is a need for the development of innovative ideas on how we can improve waste management systems in our country in order to drive the recycling economy.
- The waste sector must ensure that it contributes to the efforts of tackling the triple challenge of unemployment, poverty and inequality.

- A conducive environment to promote the recycling economy is required.
- Education and empowerment of our communities on waste management is vital.
- There is a need to remove the monopolies which exist in the pricing of recyclable materials.
- There is a need to support more programmes which link climate change and waste management.
- Waste management planning and governance matters needs to be prioritised
- Waste service delivery and infrastructure in waste management requires urgent attention
- Institutional capacity for waste management in South Africa needs to be strengthened
- There are viable economic opportunities that needs to be unlocked
- Waste in many instances can be a Resource.

Whereas -

After deliberating on the following as raised by the Minister of Environmental Affairs, The Summit;

- provided a platform for high level and technical engagement on waste management priorities for the country
- allowed deliberations on awareness raising mechanisms at a national scale
- allowed discussion on the best model for the acceleration of the waste recycling economy

- having explored co-regulatory approaches such as Industry Waste Management Plans as envisaged in the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008.
- having enabled deliberation on various technologies for waste management suitable for South Africa
- having highlighted the need to incorporate the informal sector in the waste management system.
- supporting the mainstreaming of climate change matters in waste management.
- having discussed the various mechanisms for the effective delivery of waste management services.
- having created a national platform for the exchange of information on best practice between all stakeholders

Resolve that ...

The following actions are required to advance the “*War on Waste*” -

- **SALGA:** Resolve challenges with respect to project management issues between Local Municipalities and District Municipalities
- **SALGA/DEA/DCOG:** Consider the amendment of the Constitution to clarify the differentiated mandates with respect to waste management.
- **DEA:** Consider provision of accredited training
- **SALGA/DEA/DCOG:** To conduct awareness raising on waste management.
- **Local Government:** Land ownership should be cleared/ obtained with owners (traditional leadership/ private owners) prior to commencement of the project.
- **DCOG/ NT:** Review current allocations for waste management services and ring-fence allocated budgets.

- **Industry, Gov. and Communities:** Consider public private partnerships.
- **DEA:** Clear policy direction regarding Waste-to-energy.
- **National / Provincial Departments:** to provide consistent support to municipalities
- **DEA:** Involvement of youth in Waste Programmes.

Approval of the Resolution;

The Summit approved the resolutions at the closing session of the Summit