



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 3083 {NW3545E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 22 OF 2025

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Mr S P Mkhize (MK) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

Given that Gauteng and the Western Cape collectively account for over 60% of South Africa's waste generation with Gauteng producing 42.4% or 25.5 million m³ and the Western Cape, 20.2% which is about 12.1 million m³ of the national total, and considering the persistent illegal dumping crises in townships such as Soweto, Kagiso, Daveyton and Fisantekraal, where thousands of informal dumpsites exist due to inadequate waste management, what measurable interventions has his department implemented in collaboration with municipalities to (a) improve waste collection and management infrastructure in the specified high-burden provinces and townships, (b) reduce the volume of uncollected waste which is estimated to be over 3.6 million tons nationally and (c) hold municipalities accountable for recurring failures in environmental service delivery?

3083. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

- (a) The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), in partnership with the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA); National Treasury, amended the Municipal Infrastructure Grant in 2020, the Urban Integrated Development Grant and the Urban Settlement Development Grant in 2022 to allow municipalities to purchase specialised waste collection and landfill vehicles from their grant allocation. The municipalities in Gauteng and the Western Cape have used these amendments to purchase waste collection and landfill site management fleet.

The DFFE is currently working with National Treasury and the metropolitan municipalities on a new Urban Development Financing Grant with a Metro Trading Services Incentive Component programme to be implemented from 2026. This new programme is aimed at improving efficiency of waste services provision by providing performance-based incentives.

- (b) The response above is also applicable as the grants assist municipalities in waste collection. Furthermore, the DFFE has implemented Extended Producer Responsibility Regulations that compel producers of paper and packaging; lighting; electrical and electronic equipment, among others to collaborate with municipalities to upscale recycling and improve product design. The DFFE also works with provincial environment authorities to implement the national waste awareness programme and regularly conducts clean-up campaigns in these two provinces.
- (c) Environment is a concurrent function between national and provincial departments. Regulation and enforcement on matters relating to general waste in municipalities are under the custodian of the Provincial MECs for environment. There have been enforcement cases against municipalities, including 52 criminal cases that have been opened against municipalities for non-compliant landfill sites. From the statistics received from the provincial environmental department, eleven (11) cases have been concluded through plea and sentence agreements, in terms of section 105A of the Criminal Procedures Act, 1977 (Act No. 51 of 1977), of which the most important cases are the following:
- Maizefield or Aliwal North landfill site (Walter Sisulu Local Municipality [LM]), Cradock landfill site (Nxuba Ye Themba LM) in the Eastern Cape;
 - Lydenburg landfill site (Thaba Chweu LM), Standerton landfill site (Lekwa LM), Bethal/eMzinoni;
 - Leslie/Leandra and Kinross landfill sites (Govan Mbeki LM) in Mpumalanga;
 - Odendaalsrus landfill site (Matjhabeng LM) in the Free State; and
 - Goudkoppies, Marie Louise and Robinson Deep landfill sites in Gauteng.

Regards



DR D T GEORGE, MP

MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

DATE: 31/6/2025