



**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. 1516 {NW1838E}**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 15 of 2022**

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**Mr N Singh (IFP) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:**

- (1) Given that post-use technology products are currently reported as being the fastest accumulation of waste products in the world, what are the full, relevant details of current interventions in place to recycle electronic waste, as well as interventions currently being discussed, to thereby also create a circular economy;
- (2) whether her department has collaborated with any other department to promote and/or facilitate e-waste recycling; if not, why not; if so, what are the full, relevant details of her department's collaboration with other departments?

**1516. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:**

- (1) The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) promulgated the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Regulations on 5 November 2020, the implementation of which came into effect on 5 November 2021. The EPR Regulations were published, together with the EPR Notices for Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) and Lighting Equipment.

The purpose of the regulations is to –

- provide a framework for the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of EPR schemes by producers in terms of section 18 of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 29 of 2008) (NEM:WA);
- ensure the effective and efficient management of identified end-of-life products; and
- encourage and enable the implementation of circular economy initiatives.

Furthermore, the EPR Notice for EEE sets out specific mandatory take-back measures to be implemented for electronic products and subsequent waste, such that the identification of electronic products and recycling targets are to be achieved year on year for a period of five years. The intention is to ensure that there is an increase in the diversion of waste towards recycling by setting up value chains for the collection, storage, transportation, refurbishment for reuse, recovery and recycling of value materials, treatment and disposal.

EPR legislation has created an enabling environment for e-waste recycling to grow. While there are very few such facilities, mostly in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape, it is envisaged that through the implementation of EPR, many recycling facilities will be established in other provinces.

Other interventions include the following:

- The prohibition of the disposal of e-waste to landfill sites since 23 August 2021 (Norms and Standards for Disposal of Waste to Landfill, 2013), which specifically ensures that in line with the waste management hierarchy, the higher order options are implemented, unlocking opportunities for growth in the local recycling economy through the local processing and recovery of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) valuable fractions.
- The waste licensing of facilities for recycling to ensure that these comply with the highest standards to ensure environmentally sound management of electronic waste.
- The DFFE works together with provincial and local government to raise awareness on waste management through various platforms including waste management forums.

(2) The EPR regulations and support through the prohibition of e-waste disposal to landfill has created an enabling environment for the recycling economy to grow. This has provided regulatory

certainty for investors in the e-waste recycling space since there will be increased collection of e-waste, making required feedstocks available for operating such facilities.

Over the past few months, the DFFE has engaged with various national and provincial departments to fast-track the contribution that government departments can make to specific initiatives. The departments that have been engaged are as follows:

#### National departments

- The Department of Science and Innovation; the Department of Tourism; the Department of Cooperative Governance; the Department of Higher Education and Training; the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition; the Department of Small Business Development; and the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation.

#### Provincial departments

- North-West Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism; Mpumalanga Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs; Mpumalanga, Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism; KwaZulu-Natal Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs; Free State Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs; Gauteng E-Government; Eastern Cape Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism; and the Department of Defence

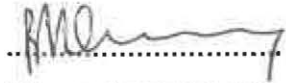
Initial discussions in piloting an electronic waste recycling programme have commenced with the E-Government department of Gauteng linked to Operation Phakisa: Chemicals and Waste Economy programme in November and December 2021, with a subsequent provincial workshop on electronic waste, which was concluded in January 2022.

Two sites of the Department of Defence have been engaged in 2021, but due to Covid restrictions no real progress has been achieved in this regard. The DFFE will re-establish engagements in May 2022 in the following provinces:

- Western Cape; and
- Limpopo.

A concept note and step-by-step guide have been developed by the DFFE to guide the process and develop a roadmap for the roll-out to other government departments in the 2022/2023 Financial Year.

**Regards**



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

**DATE:** 13-5-2022