



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref:02/1/5/2

MINISTER (ACTING)

QUESTION NO. 270 FOR ORAL REPLY: NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

A draft reply to **Mr L B Gaehler (Eastern Cape: UDM)** to the above-mentioned question is enclosed for your consideration.

**MS NOSIPHO NGCABA
DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

DATE:

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

**MR D A HANEKOM, MP
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS (ACTING)**

DATE:

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

(For oral reply)

QUESTION NO. 270 {CO603E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 40 of 2018

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 22 October 2018

Mr L B Gaehler (Eastern Cape: UDM) to ask the Minister of Environmental Affairs:

Whether she or her department has any waste management strategies to curb the negative effects of waste disposal on the environment for both urban and rural communities; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

270. THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPLIES:

The department and relevant stakeholders (for example, provincial department responsible for the environment mandate, municipalities and industry) make use of the 2nd National Waste Management Strategy (NWMS) published in 2011 as the key strategy for waste management.

The Waste Management Strategy is also a legislative requirement of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, (Act No. 59 of 2008). The 2nd strategy has set eight (8) goals, objectives, indicators and targets to achieve the protection of health, well-being and the environment by following the waste management hierarchy. The eight (8) goals respond to both rural and urban settings, especially on the following objects of NEMWA of reducing, re-using, recycling and recovering waste, and treating and safely disposing of waste. It prioritised urban settings for initiation of separation of waste at source programmes for all metropolitan municipalities, secondary cities and large towns.

The National Domestic Waste Collection Standards (NDWCS) that were published in 2011 in Government Notice No. 33935 provide for different levels of service based on the density of settlements. For example, generally urban settings are highly dense and the standards provide for community transfer of waste to central collection point be in points, whereas in remote rural areas appropriate and regularly supervised on-site waste disposal is provided for.

The department also has a National Policy for Provision of Basic Refuse Removal Services to Indigent Households, in order to ensure that poor households have access to at least basic refuse removal services from concerned municipalities. This requires alignment with existing pieces of legislation because environment is a concurrent function between National and Provincial Government. Municipalities also have refuse removal as part of their constitutional mandates. This situation, therefore requires coordination with all the relevant stakeholders for alignment of the various strategies that might be there from each relevant authority.

The department is currently developing the 3rd National Waste Management Strategy. Once completed, the 3rd Strategy will be presented to cabinet for approval. It factors in the implementation of circular economy and minimisation of waste so that there is less negative environmental impact, while exploring job creation and economic development opportunities through using waste as a resource.

We also have a waste site licensing system, which is based on the National Waste Management: Waste Act, all waste facilities are supposed to be licensed for ensuring proper management of these sites as well as avoiding pollution and underground water contamination from waste landfilling. There are also Waste Classification Regulations and Norms and Standards for storage and norms and standards for assessment of waste for landfilling. These provides a legislative and regulative approach towards preventing negative environmental impacts.

Some municipalities have gone further to recover energy from their old landfill sites which is also a positive approach as opposed to just landfilling without exploring other opportunities. The department conducts regular compliance audits at various licenced facilities in order to ascertain whether the management of these sites is in line with the license conditions that are given for each site. These Landfil Sites also have to report to the South African Waste Information System (SAWIS) of the department on regular basis. Where there is no satisfactory reporting, the department conducts audits to verify what the problem might be and assist in resolving the problem, including issuing compliance notices where there is non compliance to the waste legislation, regulations, norms and standards and/or the conditions of the Waste Licence.

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