



**environment, forestry
& fisheries**

Department:
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 265 {NW268E}

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Mr M N Paulsen (EFF) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

Given that South Africa joined the United Nations Environment Programme Clean Seas campaign against marine plastic litter in 2017 and that part of the specified campaign is to implement a ban on the use of plastic bags, what progress has been made in realising the commitment?

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

South Africa has been supporting the campaign and the fight against marine litter through a range of different options, including the following:

- (a) Pioneering national legislation on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) to promote the reduction of plastic waste.
- (b) Improved implementation of the market based instrument (plastic bag levy) to discourage the use of plastic bags
- (c) The establishment of EPR schemes is underway and these schemes will improve waste management structures and systems that will help reduce plastic litter.

Furthermore, South Africa's commitment to the Clean Seas campaign included stepping up the beach clean-up programmes. The Department, through the Chief Directorate: Environmental Protection and Infrastructure Programme (EPIP), is responsible for the implementation of the Working for Coasts sub-programme.

The project activities include coastal clean-ups, clearing of litter in catchments from source to sea; removal of illegal and abandoned structures; support to the Blue Flag Beaches; and cleaning during disasters, such as floods, oil spills and plastic nurdle spills.

The Department is currently implementing projects along the entire coastline including coastal catchment areas of the country from Alexander Bay in the Northern Cape to Kosi Bay in KwaZulu-Natal. A pilot source to sea project is currently being implemented in Ethekwini Metropolitan Municipality targeting five (5) major river systems with the deployment of litter booms to address possible marine litter from land-based sources.

Regards



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

DATE: 4/3/2021