



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 33 {NW990E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 01 of 2019

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Ms A M M Weber (DA) to ask the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries:

Whether she intends to introduce legislation in the National Assembly to ban the use of single-use plastic in the Republic; if not, why not; if so, by what date does she intend to introduce the specified legislation? NW990E

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

The National Environment Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), contains specific provisions under section 44 remain adequate to control single-use plastic products. The National Environment Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008), contains specific provisions under sections 17, 18, 28 and 29 to control the disposal plastic products.

It is a matter of public record that the management of plastics in the world generally and in our own country is sub-optimal and consequently the management of plastic has been identified as one important area to which the globe must respond if we are to protect our oceans. The World Economic Forum and the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, observed could be “more plastics than fish (by weight) in the ocean by 2050 if no action is taken immediately”. . South Africa is therefore currently reviewing its policy instruments.

The department has initiated a process to review the effectiveness of our policies and relating to the management of plastic waste and to consider whether it is necessary to have a new policy direction.

This review includes discussions with the retail, pharmaceutical, cosmetics sector and the paper and packaging industries on ways to combat the use of one time plastics and their disposal management.

We expect to conclude this process within the current financial year. At this point we will make further announcements on our approach to this important matter.

Regards

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

DATE:.....