



## **environmental affairs**

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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### **NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**(For written reply)**

**QUESTION NO. 482 {NW1475E}**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 10 of 2019**

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**Ms H S Winkler (DA) to ask the Minister of Environmental, Forestry and Fisheries:**

- (1) What are our recycling targets as a country;
- (2) What number of (a) waste picker initiatives have been supported by the Government and (b) jobs have been created through the initiatives;
- (3) (a) Who collects the plastic bag levy, (b) what total amount has been accrued since the inception of the specified levy, (c) what amount of the levy is allocated to her department and (d) how is the balance of the levy that is not funnelled into her department being utilised?

### **482. THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES**

#### **REPLIES:**

(1) The 2019 draft National Waste Management Strategy (NWMS) has set the target of diverting 30% of waste from landfill within 5 years; 60% within 10 years; and at least 80% of waste within 15 years through reuse, recycling, and recovery and alternative waste treatment. The NWMS of 2011 posted a target of 25% of recyclables diverted from landfill sites for re-use, recycling or recovery.

(2a) The following four (4) National Government Programmes have supported waste picker initiatives:

- i. The Department's **Recycling Enterprise Support Programme (RESP)** has supported SMMEs across the country. Some of these enterprises are owned by former waste pickers and these SMMEs have integrated waste pickers into their operations.
- ii. The **Waste Tyre Operations** under the Waste Management Bureau
- iii. The **Tools of Trade Initiative** to support waste pickers
- iv. The Department developed a **Waste Picker Integration Guideline for South Africa** by supporting waste pickers through opportunities in the recycling economy and improving livelihoods through integration of the informal sector.
- v. The Department of Small Business Development (DSBD) also has supported various waste picker initiatives as part of the Cooperative Incentive Scheme.

(2b) Figures are not available for jobs that have been created in provinces and municipalities, private sector.

(3a) The Plastic Bag levy is collected by South African Revenue Services (SARS).

(3b) The figures as published by National Treasury on the revenues link on [http://www.treasury.gov.za/comm\\_media/press/monthly/monthly\\_2019.aspx](http://www.treasury.gov.za/comm_media/press/monthly/monthly_2019.aspx) indicate that the total amount collected was R 1 984 574 000 as at the end on 2018/19 financial year.

(3c and d) The National Revenue Fund is a general fund from which appropriations are made, and there is no earmarking of funds collected, therefore, it is not possible to draw a direct link between the amounts collected for a specific tax or levy with any specific expenditure. However, R1 666 841 123 of the Department of Environmental Affairs' total allocation as appropriated from the National Revenue Fund was set aside since 2004/5 to 2016/17 for waste minimization and recycling initiatives.

**Regards**

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

DATE: 5/9/2019