



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. 665 {NW738E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 6 of 2023

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

What (a) programmes have been implemented to achieve the goal of zero waste to landfill by 2030 and (b) sanctions are in place for the municipalities, like Kopanong Local Municipality in the Xhariep District, who fail to even collect waste from businesses in the town of Trompsburg?

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

(a) The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) is implementing the National Waste Management Strategy (NWMS), 2020, on reducing waste disposed at landfill sites. The State of Waste Report, 2018, has been compiled in order to give an indication of how the country is progressing in the diversion of waste from landfill sites. The DFFE is preparing for the development of the next version of the State of Waste Report in 2023/24. The DFFE acknowledges that not all waste is being diverted away from landfill sites. The interventions under the NWMS include the development and implementation of the Exclusions Regulations that are aimed at excluding waste that can be utilised for beneficial use. The Norms and Standards for Organic Waste Treatment and Organic Waste Composting, which will assist with diverting approximately 30% of our waste from landfill, are also under implementation. The DFFE is also implementing various Operation

Phakisa Chemicals and Waste Economy initiatives that are also aimed at reducing waste from going to landfill sites.

The NWMS Waste Minimisation Pillar Number 1, which promotes a circular economy, waste recycling and the waste hierarchy, has also seen the implementation of various Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes covering paper and packaging, lighting, electrical and electronic products. There is a gradual reduction of waste going to landfill. The State of Waste report, together with the information reported on the South African Waste Information System, does not conclusively project that there will be no waste going to landfill in 2030 as residual waste would still require landfilling. EPR schemes for pesticides, waste oils and batteries are being finalised for gazetting for implementation in 2024 to assist with diverting waste away from landfill sites.

- (b) With respect to the sanctions that can be implemented against local municipalities for not collecting waste from certain areas within a town, please note that compliance notices can be issued by duly designated Environmental Management Inspectors to these local municipalities as this omission constitutes non-compliance with their duties in terms of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2009 (Act No. 59 of 2009) (NEM:WA).

Section 139 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act No. 108 of 1996) further provides that if a municipality cannot or does not fulfil an executive obligation in terms of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act No. 108 of 1996) or legislation, the relevant provincial executive may intervene by taking any appropriate steps to ensure fulfilment of that obligation, including the issuing of a directive to the Municipal Council; describing the extent of failure to fulfil its obligations and stating any steps required to meet its obligations; assuming responsibility for the relevant obligation in that municipality or dissolving the Municipal Council and appointing an administrator until a newly elected Municipal Council has been declared elected, if exceptional circumstances warrant such a step.


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

DATE:14/3/2023.....