



**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. 1557 {NW1800E}**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 15 of 2023**

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**Mr D W Bryant (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:**

- (1) What (a) are the details of all small-, micro- and medium enterprises that have benefited from the Recycling Enterprise Support Programme (RESP) since 2017 and (b) total amounts have been paid out to the successful applicants since then;
- (2) (a) who is in charge of identifying successful applicants for RESP and (b) what is the protocol that governs interactions between them and the applicants;
- (3) whether any concerns have been raised regarding the application process for RESP; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) what were the concerns and (b) how were they addressed?

**1557. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:**

1. (a)

Since 2017, there have been three (3) intakes of Recycling Enterprise Support Programme (RESP) beneficiaries, which has resulted in fifty-six (56) SMMEs and cooperatives from nine (9) provinces who have been awarded grants from the programme.

(b)

The RESP grants that have been paid to date amount to R190 415 473.

2. (a)

RESP grants are awarded to qualifying applicants by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) after following a competitive open solicitation process supported by a published Terms of Reference document. Applicants are expected to respond via written submissions, which include a detailed business plan.

(b)

The protocol that governs RESP is the RESP Implementation Guidelines, which have been approved by the Accounting Officer. Projects are expected to be implemented by the Beneficiary and monitored by the DFFE over a period of 5 (five) years, as stipulated in the agreements signed between RESP beneficiaries and the DFFE.

The solicitation of proposals (RFP) has an intention of delivering an equitable opportunity to qualifying enterprises across the nine (9) provinces. There are different roles for distinct delegated structures to get to the identification of the successful applicants, as follows:

- Specification Committee: This committee is only responsible for the drafting of the Terms of Reference.
- Project Evaluation Committee: This committee is responsible for evaluating the received applications.
- Quality Assurance: Internal auditors conduct quality assurance on the RESP process.
- Adjudication Committee: This committee is responsible for the approval of the Terms of References drafted by the Specification Committee and recommendation for award decisions by the Accounting Officer of the qualifying selected applicants identified by the Project Evaluation Committee.
- The Accounting Officer has the powers to award or not award based on the recommendations of the Adjudication Committee.

It is important to note that membership of the above committees is also restricted and controlled to mitigate risks and manage the segregation of duties.

The Code of Conduct for the public service manages the relationship between public servants and RESP grant applicants.

3. (a)

Some of the concerns that have been raised to date regarding the application process include the following:

- Initial RESP RFP calls used the Supply Chain Management process and given that enterprises are not using or providing the same recycling activity, the comparative schedule principle of informing award decisions could not be applied.
- Arranging for applicants to submit their applications to their respective provinces and not only to the Pretoria Head Office.
- Some applicants raised that the maximum grant of R5 million is low given that the machinery and equipment in recycling are expensive and prices continue to escalate.

(b)

The DFFE is still considering some of the matters as part of continuous improvement:

- Benchmarking of the award process of other grant programmes in the public sector took place and informed the revised RESP Guidelines that are being applied currently.
- Given strict controls linked to document management, other mechanisms that are part of e-bidding are being considered; however, these will be considered in subsequent calls.
- The DFFE also promotes other support programmes offered by the Department of Small Business Development as further options to provide additional support to compliment RESP support.



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

DATE: 16/5/2023