



**forestry, fisheries
& the environment**

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref: O2/1/5/2

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
(For written reply)**

**QUESTION NO. 2585 {NW3101E}
INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 27 of 2022**

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Mr R A Lees (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

- (1) What are the details of any steps that have been and/or will be taken to ensure that the high number of disposable nappies, including the hundreds of thousands of nappies issued free to indigent persons, are disposed of without polluting the environment, in particular in the rural areas, where there is no formal refuse removal service and where the used disposable nappies are thrown into the veld, dams, water courses and/or rivers;
- (2) what are the details of any steps that have been taken and/or will be taken to ensure that general refuse is not dumped indiscriminately (a) in places such as streets, roads and urban public areas and (b) in rural areas where there are no municipal refuse removal services?

2585. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

- (1) Disposable diapers are part of the broader Absorbent Hygiene Products (AHP) that are considered general waste at end-of-life and must be managed in accordance with the National Domestic Waste Collection Standards (NDWCS). In rural areas with low density settlements and farms, in which municipalities have not extended weekly refuse collection services, then an on-site appropriate and regularly supervised disposal by the Municipal Waste Management Officer is recommended.

(2) (a) and (b)

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) plans to address AHP waste challenges across the country through –

- Ongoing training and capacity building of municipal officials on waste management, including NDWCS service levels.
- Reviewing applicable policies aimed at waste collection with the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) and National Treasury to enable municipalities to increase waste collection and support landfill operation through the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG). The recent amendments to the MIG framework allow municipalities to purchase waste collection and landfill operation vehicles using the MIG, which came into effect in 2020.
- Over and above the MIG, reprioritising some of the funds to further assist selected needy municipalities by purchasing a yellow fleet for the provision of waste collection services to address some of the illegal dumping challenges.
- Working with provinces, municipalities and various industries to champion awareness-raising and clean-up activities throughout the country. The education and awareness interventions are targeted at waste minimisation in general and the clearing of illegal dumping sites. Through Working for Programmes (for example, Working on Waste), the DFFE conducts education and awareness-raising activities targeted at schools and broader communities with various stakeholders to promote the environmentally sound management of waste with communities and the protection of the environment, including rivers, from pollution.
- The development of an AHP Waste Management Strategy to look at the improved design of AHP products and management of AHP waste. Pilot projects in Polokwane and eThekweni are aimed at developing AHP collection systems that may be replicated in other municipalities throughout the country.

Regards



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

DATE: 6/9/2022