

*Implementation of the waste management strategy as a means to advance peoples' constitutional right to a healthy environment, shift to a green economy to stimulate job creation and  
for the nation to look at alternatives to waste management:  
Re-use, Recycle and Recover [from waste management to resource management]*

*Parliament invites you to comment on the National Waste Strategy, 2011*

South Africa has entered a period of enormous change in the way in which it governs and manages waste. A growing trend worldwide is to focus on sustainably developing the sector to emerge with a new consciousness and awareness of viewing waste as a resource. The importance of sustainable development means that South Africa must shift its focus away from simply managing waste to preventing waste and managing waste as a resource.

The Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Ms Ednah Molewa welcomed the approval of the National Waste Management Strategy (NWMS) by Cabinet on 9 November 2011 for implementation. The NWMS is a legislative requirement of the National Environmental Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008) that aims to achieve the objects of the Waste Act.

The legacy of inadequate waste services, poorly planned and maintained waste management infrastructure, and limited regulation of waste management, persistently threatens the health and wellbeing of everyone in the country. Addressing this legacy and its negative environmental and social consequences advances people's constitutional right to a healthy environment. The NWMS aims to redress the past gaps and imbalances in waste management.

The NWMS is structured against a framework of eight goals. An action plan sets out how the goals and targets will be met. The actions include roles and responsibilities for different spheres of government, industry and civil society. The eight goals are:

- Promote waste minimisation, re-use, recycling and recovery of waste;
- Ensure effective and efficient delivery of waste services;
- Grow the contribution of the waste sector to the green economy;
- Ensure that people are aware of the impact of waste on their health, well-being and the environment;
- Achieve integrated waste management planning;
- Ensure sound budgeting and financial management for waste services;
- Provide measures to remediate contaminated land; and
- Establish effective compliance with and enforcement of the Waste Act.

The goal to grow the contribution of the waste sector to the green economy intends to stimulate job creation and broaden participation by SMEs as well as marginalised communities in the waste sector.

Some of the tools identified for the implementation of the NWMS include a waste classification and management system, norms and standards, licensing, industry waste management plans, extended producer responsibility, priority wastes and economic instruments.

The Portfolio Committee on Water and Environmental Affairs (the Portfolio Committee) in the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa will be holding public hearings on the National Waste Management Strategy, 2011. The Portfolio Committee on Water and Environmental Affairs (the Portfolio Committee) invites all interested stakeholders to **submit written comments on the subject matter not later than -**

**18 May 2012.** Public hearings are targeted for 29 and 30 May and 1 June 2012. Specific dates and times will be provided after the deadline has been met.

Kindly note that the Portfolio Committee retains the right to regulate its own proceedings, including the right to decide whether to allow oral representations in respect of any submission, and the format, procedure and duration of any oral representation.

All written comments appropriately referenced as "**Implementation of the National Waste Management Strategy, 2011**" should be addressed to Ms Tyhileka Madubela, Committee Section, Parliament of RSA, PO Box 15, Cape Town 8000. Electronic submissions can be made at: [tmadubela@parliament.gov.za](mailto:tmadubela@parliament.gov.za) or hand-delivered at Room 0/88, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 90 Plein Street, Cape Town. For enquiries, contact Ms Madubela on 021 403 3713 or 083 304 9586.

Issued by Adv. Johnny de Lange, M.P.: Chairperson: Portfolio Committee on Water and Environmental Affairs on 30 March 2012.