



## **Privatisation of waste management as a better option for service delivery**

**Immediate release**

**27 September 2011**

***Eastern Cape - Waste management and the lack of service delivery by municipalities is going from bad to worse. It's been a talking point for way too long and action needs to be taken.***

Although the government is making inroads, albeit slowly regarding the implementation of the new Waste Act – not enough is being done. The reasons why municipalities continue to struggle in service delivery is the lack of qualified and experienced staff to fulfil the various roles in waste management. The other setback identified regarding the questionable service delivery and waste management is due to the lack of adequate funds to carry out these services.

Does the solution perhaps lie in the privatization of the waste management sector? This was a question that was raised at a recent workshop hosted by the Institute of Waste Management of Southern Africa (IWMSA) in the Eastern Cape. One of the solutions proposed was to contract out the various services directly to private contractors over a three to five year period which would help the contractors to plan and allocate resources accordingly. Another option for consideration is that of a concession wherein a private sector company is granted a long-term concession to implement and operate a waste management system. Waste management services could also be provided through a public private partnership (PPP) wherein the municipality partners with the private sector who could provide the necessary financing and operational services.

The South African government and municipalities need to be role models and provide an enabling environment for waste problems to be fixed and allow the private sector with ideas to participate. Every problem is embedded with a solution within itself as long as there is enough support and commitment from all critical players such as government, private sector and the community. The IWMSA embraces and supports any actions that will lead to waste minimisation and the effective management of waste in order to protect our environment. For any ideas and suggestions, please contact the IWMSA on [iwmsa@telkomsa.net](mailto:iwmsa@telkomsa.net) or 011 675 3462

The IWMSA is a professional, multi-disciplinary organisation with voluntary membership established to promote the science and practice of waste management and is a non-profit organisation. For more information visit [www.iwmsa.co.za](http://www.iwmsa.co.za)

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