

# Plastic Colloquium

## Integration of The Informal Economy



environmental affairs

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



consumer  
goods council  
of south africa

Plastics | SA



# Focus Areas

- What is Integration of Waste Pickers
- Implementing and Enabling Integration
- Incentives of integration
- Pricing Mechanism to support integration
- Top 5 Challenges
- Support Needed
- Next Steps



environmental affairs

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



consumer  
goods council  
of south africa

Plastics | SA



# Integration of Waste Pickers/ Reclaimers

- South Africa has a non-supported, highly efficient collection system ensuring world competitive recycling rates – created by Waste Pickers.
- WP integration is the creation of a formally planned recycling system that values and improves the present role of WP - and address the weaknesses in their current system.
- It's a transformative process that improves their work, lives, social status and the recycling system
- It requires changes in several spheres, and it includes integration of their work as well as the political, social, legal and environmental integration of Waste Pickers
- It is necessary to explicitly integrate WP current Separation outside Source system when developing a new formally planned recycling system- build on what exist.



environmental affairs

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



consumer  
goods council  
of south africa

Plastics | SA



# Implementing & Enabling Integration

- Adaptation and Implementation of Wp guidelines with timelines
- Change current legislation
- Provide space for WP to sort and trade
- Section H of the WP Guidelines sets out a process for developing a WP integration plan
- Engage them as partners in participatory decision making
- Integrate them into S@S programmes and meet targets at same time
- Awareness programmes to house-holds
- Training programmes of waste pickers
- Support WP, to strengthen their capacity to organize and represent themselves
- Assist them to register all WP without discrimination.



environmental affairs

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



consumer  
goods council  
of south africa

Plastics | SA





# Incentives of Integration

- **SDG 1** Eradicating Poverty
- **SDG 8** Economic growth and good jobs for all
- **SDG 10** Reducing inequality
- **SDG 11** Creating sustainable cities and equal partners in the integration processes
- Diverting waste from landfill – prolonging landfill life, saving cost to municipalities.
- Reduces contamination and improve quality of material to the recycling plants and increase recycling rates.
- Contains green house gas emissions related to collections – non motorized



**environmental affairs**

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**consumer  
goods council**  
of south africa

**Plastics | SA**





# Pricing Mechanism supporting integration

- Industry Waste Management Plans- EPR
  - Municipality Initiative Fund
  - Waste Picker Fund
- Need Treasury on board to provide specific funding for Integration
- Plastic bag Levy must urgently be directed to support WP and relevant recycling programmes, environment programmes, awareness and Committees = 100% of funding to these programmes.



environmental affairs

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



consumer  
goods council  
of south africa

Plastics | SA



# In Summery – Top 5 Challenges

- Criminalization of waste pickers
  - Municipalities ignorant of by-laws
  - Police Confiscate and burn their material
  - Households suspicious
- Non-payment of WP from entire value chain – implement Reclaimers support mechanism. Unrecognized, unpaid labour
- Space – for reclaimers to sort and trade - integrated into municipality waste management infrastructure. Municipalities setting up Buy Back Center's etc. should set up sorting areas.
- Government and Industry have meaningful engagement with reclaimers when it affects their lives.
- Funding for Waste Pickers – Gov has Co-op support programme R350 000.00 per entity, RESP Programme R 5 000 000.00 per entity – what about Waste Pickers



environmental affairs

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



consumer  
goods council  
of south africa

Plastics | SA



# Support Needed

- Municipalities Equipping Waste Pickers with land - and industry support with equipment, infrastructure, recycling hubs, trucks.
- Tendering processes, excludes Waste Pickers – given to people under the guise of co-ops and they are taking material away from WP
- Government must use evidence – inclusion in policy. Consultations with all relevant stakeholders otherwise it has unintended consequence
- Need Treasury on board to provide specific funding for Integration
- Support for people in collection Space must be directed to the reclaimers including private sector companies
- Provide funding and support to register & recruit Waste Pickers to travel around the country (Petrol/Transport/Accommodation)



environmental affairs

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



consumer  
goods council  
of south africa

Plastics | SA





# Next Steps

- Adaptation and Implementation of Wp guidelines with timelines
- Funding for Implementation - A secure Budget
- Funding to expand the Waste Picker Guideline Committee and develop road map for WP Guidelines
- Draft a Skills Development and Training programme for the Waste Pickers
- Set up a **Task Team**: fully inclusive group (GOV, WP, Industry, Business Academia etc.) regulating what Government plans and implement
- Task team - Meeting with Retailers on how to implement Waste Pickers Guidelines (they pay expensive rates to remove skips – Waste Pickers can be integrated into system)



environmental affairs

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



consumer  
goods council  
of south africa

Plastics | SA

