



Reclaimers – Everyday environmental heroes

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A day in my life!

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Who are waste reclaimers?

- Collectors of recyclable and reusable materials that are disposed.
- There is an estimated **5000 reclaimers in the City of Johannesburg** collecting from bins, landfills, and open spaces.
- Reclaimers collect **80-90% of recyclable** in south Africa, saving municipalities **R750m worth of landfill air space** (Linda Godfrey, Quantifying economic activity in the informal recycling sector in South Africa, 2021).





When do we collect *YOUR* waste?

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africanreclaimers@gmail.com



How do we work?

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THE LAW OF AVERAGES.....

Every street, every bin, every land-fill



How do we work?

• Separation Outside Source

- Landfill
- Curb-side



Photo credit: Jonathan Torgovnik, Getty Images Reportage



Diagram 3: Separation outside source, Diagram by M. Samson, D. Seegers and J. van den Bussche

Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries and Department of Science and Innovation (2020). Waste picker integration guideline for South Africa: Building the Recycling Economy and Improving Livelihoods through Integration of the Informal Sector. DEFF and DST: Pretoria.

How do we work?

- Separation at Source
 - Curb-side



Diagram 4: S@S that excludes waste pickers, Diagram by M. Samson, D. Seegers and J. van den Bussche

Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries and Department of Science and Innovation (2020). Waste picker integration guideline for South Africa: Building the Recycling Economy and Improving Livelihoods through Integration of the Informal Sector. DEFF and DST: Pretoria.



What are the challenges?

- Stigmatization of waste and reclaimers
- Lack of recognition
- Unequal level of engagement
- Access to material
- Lack of resources
- Lack of transparency of the value-chain
- Health and safety risks (Covid)

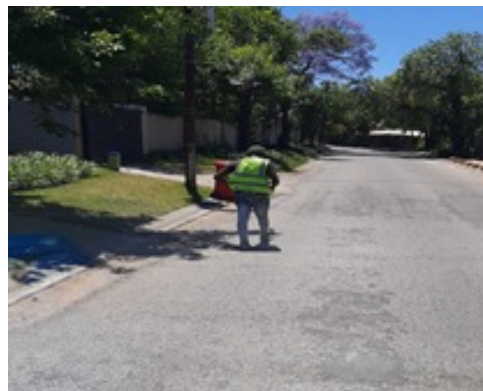


Solutions

- Education of communities, schools, industries, and government
- Meaningful collaborations:



Reclaiming with reclaimers curb-side collection (Brixton/Auckland Park)



Bordeaux South curb-side collection



Carlswald Life Estate curb-side collection



Duxberry curb-side collection



Meaningful collaboration bear fruit



National Waste Picker Registration System

Registration

Logout

Please enter Waste Picker Verifier Details:

Username
Tau

Password

☒ Please confirm that you are a registered verifier.

Authenticate

Personal Details

Collection Information

3-months validity

Supporting Document

Verification Details

Personal Details

First Name: Lebogang
Surname: Mokone
Date of Birth: 2000-01-08
Age: 22
Cellphone number: 0769790855
Alternative cellphone number:
Race: Coloured
Gender: Non-binary
Document type: SA ID
Unique Registration number: 3775744

Face Portrait

Logout

Municipality

Verify Waste Picker

Verification successful.

OK

Submit

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- This system is about the **person** (waste picker)
- It does not collect any waste type or tonnage data
 - That is left to the PROs to implement via their most appropriate system(s)
- A PRO system would “link” to the national registration system via the **unique waste picker identifier**
- A waste picker would have the same unique identifier across all PRO systems



- Access to resources: Infrastructure, logistics, materials



What is your role?

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- Reclaimers have been subsidizing the environment, communities, industries, and municipalities for decades at no cost
- What does the future looks like?



REDUCE · RE-USE · RECYCLE · RE-THINK · RE-PURPOSE



Thank You