



**MINISTER
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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Mr. Shabeer Jhetam
Executive Director
PACKAGING SA

Email: shabeer@packagingsa.co.za

08 April 2020

Dear Mr. Jhetam,

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TO WASTE PICKERS AND WASTE RECLAIMERS

At the onset, allow me to express my sincere thanks to Packaging SA and its members for the wonderful response to the request for distress relief for waste reclaimers.

As you know, waste reclaiming is not part of the essential services as defined by the National Disaster Regulations. The consequence of this has been that reclaimers have faced extreme hunger and hardship. In an effort to provide immediate relief, the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, last week called on the packaging industry to make resources available, as a result we have been able to raise R780 000.00, as well as support in the form of food parcels from Pick and Pay and Coca-Cola Beverages South Africa. We are extremely grateful to all those who have contributed.

I can share with you that ARO and SAWPA are also grateful for this timely and much needed contribution. However, the need out there is extremely great and current resources are limited. I would like to take this opportunity to ask other partners who would like to contribute to this initiative, to do so. These efforts will be welcomed with open arms.

From the side of government, we are exploring longer term interventions through the agency of the Solidarity Fund, should the current restriction on movement be extended beyond 16 April 2020.

Once again, my sincere appreciation for all your efforts.

Kind regards

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

