



Cooperative Governance
Traditional Affairs



the dti

Department:
Trade and Industry
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



HIGH-LEVEL REPORT ON THE SAFE PARAFFIN APPLIANCE CONSUMER AWARENESS CAMPAIGN PERIOD: AUGUST 2015 – MARCH 2016



**Draft 0: Prepared by the National Disaster Management Centre, February 2017
Period: July 2016 – December 2016**

Summary

According to the National Disaster Management Framework (2005), South Africa faces increasing levels of disaster risk. It is exposed to a wide range of weather hazards, including drought, floods, veldfires and severe storms that can trigger widespread hardship and devastation. In addition to these, the country also faces several man-made hazards including a complex fire risk characterised by informal settlement fires which continue to undermine livelihoods and resilience of poor people living in informal settlements. The fact that most informal settlement houses or shacks are built by highly combustible materials (frequently wood and plastic) and in close proximity to each other heighten the risk of fires in these areas. The lack of electricity in most informal settlements means that communities have to utilise other sources of energy such as dangerous paraffin stoves for cooking, heating and candles for lighting. Statistics from the Household Energy Safety Association of South Africa (HESASA) indicates that about 2.1 million households in South Africa are non-electrified and use other domestic energy sources. With regard to paraffin related fires, the Household Energy Safety Association of South Africa (HESASA) points out that more than 200 000 people per year are injured or lose their property due to paraffin induced fires. Experience and research have demonstrated that most informal settlement fires are caused by paraffin stoves that do not comply with South African Standards and Specifications as required.

The Department of Cooperative Governance's National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC), has entered into partnership with the Department of Trade and Industry (dti) and its regulatory agencies i.e. National Regulator of Compulsory Specifications (NRCS) and the National Consumer Commission (NCC) to remove these unsafe and illegal stoves from our communities thereby contributing to reducing the risk of fires. The campaign gives effect to the realisation of the mandates and roles of both the NCC and the NRCS. The NCC, empowered by Consumer Protection Act 68 of 2008, is tasked with ensuring consumer protection in the country, while the NRCS, as mandated by the NRCS Act 8 of 2008, and oversees the regulation and approval of consumer products to ensure that they meet certain compulsory standards and specifications.

This campaign follows a Winter Safety Campaign that was launched by Minister Rob Davies in Kya Sands on 26 June 2015. This roll-out has enabled face-to-face community engagements through which communities were made aware of the risks posed by non-compliant products with regards to safety, health and matters of environmental protection and the rights of the consumers. Minister Davies, together with Minister of Economic Development (Minister Patel) led a national launch of this joint campaign during December 2015 in Tembisa, Ekurhuleni.

During the reporting period (July 2016 – December 2016), four (4) national events were held in Free State (Masilonyana), North West (Matlosana), Northern Cape (Sol Plaatjie) as well as Western Cape (City of Cape Town). As part of this campaign, approximately 5000 unsafe and non-compliant stoves were removed and replaced with safe and compliant ones. While the campaign includes distribution of safe and compliant paraffin stoves to identified beneficiaries within communities with the aim of eliminating the unapproved ones, it also contain an enforcement element where inspectors from both the NCC and the NRCS remove non-compliant stoves from the shop floors in various areas across the country.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The dti, with two of its regulatory agencies i.e. the NRCS and the NCC together with the NDMC located within the Department of Cooperative Governance (DCoG) are leading a safe paraffin appliance awareness campaign. The campaign is aimed at raising awareness on the usage of safe paraffin stoves and to eliminate poor quality stoves that tend to contribute to fires that often devastate informal settlements across the country. It is also aimed at improving intergovernmental cooperation and facilitating service delivery where the provision of safe consumer goods is concerned.
- 1.2 This campaign was officially launched by Minister of Trade and Industry, Minister Rob Davies on 08 December 2015 in Tembisa, Ekurhuleni. The campaign will give effect to the realization of the mandates and roles of both the NCC and the NRCS. The NCC, empowered by Consumer Protection Act 68 of 2008, is tasked with ensuring consumer protection in the country, while the NRCS, as mandated by the NRCS Act 8 of 2008, oversees the regulation and approval of consumer products to ensure that they meet certain compulsory standards and specifications.
- 1.3 The objectives of the campaign are to –
- To educate consumers about their right to fair value, good quality and safety;
 - To encourage activism around the use of safe paraffin appliances;
 - To reduce the risk of fires caused by unsafe and non-compliant stoves;
 - To promote inter-governmental cooperation and service delivery
 - To promote compliance to compulsory specifications of goods and consumer protection regulations;
 - To initiate a process for eradication of poor quality paraffin stoves in the consumer market.

2. NATURE OF THE CAMPAIGN

2.1 The campaign is multi-dimensional and includes awareness, educational and enforcement activities in identified informal settlements across the country where there is more usage of paraffin appliances with concomitant increase in informal settlement fires.

2.2 In essence, activities in each province were as follows –

- 3–5 days business compliance inspections around identified informal settlements;
- Inspections at retail outlets which entailed confiscation of unsafe products from offending retailers and possible remediation/sanctioning of offenders to be conducted through the National Consumer Tribunal (NCT);
- Door-to-door inspections of households incorporating education and community mobilisation;
- Training of identified volunteers within beneficiary communities on the campaign including how to identify unsafe and non-compliant stoves;
- A community awareness event where compliant stoves will be exchanged and poor quality ones destructed.

3. NUMBERS OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS TRAINED

3.1 The purpose of the training was to equip volunteers and community members to understand the roles of the NRCS and NCC as well as the broader campaign mandate. The training focused on the identification of unsafe paraffin stoves and Inspectors from the NRCS demonstrated how to operate a safer stove is operated and the critical features that makes it easier to identify. Table 1 below outlines the number of community members and volunteers trained in each area that was visited as part of the campaign:

Number of trained community members

Name of the Informal Settlement	Number of Personnel Trained
Vusumuzi Informal Settlement	600 Community Emergency Response Team members from the City of Ekurhuleni (); 50 Volunteers from the Tshwarisanang Environmental Pro-Re-Active Safety Mentors (TEPRASM) (national launch)
Masilonyana Local Municipality, Theunissen	50 Volunteers were trained
Matlosana Local Municipality, Ntshune Informal Settlement	40 Volunteers were trained
Sol Plaatjie Local Municipality, Madiba	100
City of Cape Town, Masiphumelele	60

4. NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS DONE IN THE VISITED AREAS

- 4.1 Routine inspections were conducted by the NRCS and the NCC Inspectors with the assistance of SAPS to monitor and evaluate whether retailers or wholesalers during the processes of providing services or goods to consumers are complying with the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act of 2008 and the National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications Act of 2008.
- 4.2 While the main event takes place in a specific municipality, random inspections are done in all nearby towns as indicated in the Table 2 below:

Number of inspections undertaken in Free State & North West

Date of Inspection	Province	Municipality	town	Number of Retailers Inspected	Number of non-Compliant Paraffin Stoves	Number of non-Compliant Paraffin Heaters
21 July 2016	Free State	Tswelopele	Bultfontein	11	01	08
22 July 2016	Free State	Masilonyana	Theunissen	02	-	-
18 July 2016	Free State	Masilonyana	Winburg	05	01	04
28 July 2016	North West	Maquassi	Leeudoringstad & Wolmaransstad	09	38	01
25/07/2016	North West	Matlosana	Hartebeesfontein	03	-	-
25/07/2016	North West	Matlosana	Klerksdorp	04	-	-
26/07/2016	North West	Matlosana	Orkney	12	04	01
26/07/2016	North West	Matlosana	Stilfontein	04	-	-
19/07/2016	Free State	Matjhabeng	Virginia	04	12	07
19 -20/07/2016	Free State	Matjhabeng	Welkom	02	-	382 + 25900 Electrical globes
19/07/2016	Free State	Matjhabeng	Thabong	01	-	-
19/07/2016	Free State	Matjhabeng	Odendaalsrus	05	-	-
29/07/2016	North West	Ventersdorp	Ventersdorp	04	-	-
20/07/2016	Free State	Nala	Wesselsbron	10	2	1
27/07/2016	North West	Tlokwe	Potchefstroom	08	12	4
	TOTAL			84	70	408

5. NUMBER OF UNSAFE PARAFFIN STOVES REMOVED VERSUS SAFER AND COMPLIANT STOVES DISTRIBUTED

5.1 While the campaign cannot remove all unsafe and non-compliant paraffin stoves, Table 3 below shows the number of unsafe stoves removed and replaced:

Number of unsafe and non-compliant stoves removed from community		Number of safe and compliant stoves distributed
Ekurhuleni, Vusimuzi	2600	3000
Masilonyana,	1500	1500
Matlosana	1500	1500
Sol Plaatjie	1500	1500
City of Cape Town	1500	2000