



**Foundation for a sustainable future**

**[www.mamaearth.co.za](http://www.mamaearth.co.za)**

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Secretary General of ANC  
Luthuli House  
Johannesburg  
5<sup>th</sup> November 2010

Dear Mr Mantashe,

Local government elections are around the corner, resulting in the use of thousands of tons of paper and plastic carrying political messages. Every year posters remain on poles and are eventually removed and dumped by the local municipalities. Following the last elections we learnt that this happens because of inadequate prior arrangements.

MamaEarth Foundation is initiating a national campaign, pre election, urging political parties to take into account the kinds of paper and plastic they use for election purposes. The worst plastic from an environmental perspective is PVC (Polyvinyl chloride). It is difficult to recycle and often gets dumped, adding either to the pool of plastics that eventually land up deep in the ocean, or it lies in landfills and generates unhealthy byproducts, called phthalates, that scientists claim leach into water and food, disrupting hormones and affecting mainly babies and children. BPA from polycarbonates and styrene from polystyrene are also suspect. Mixed plastics are also difficult to recycle. Therefore we would like to encourage you to use only plain Polyethylene or Polypropylene, both of which are less harmful and are more easily recycled, if not mixed with other plastics.

We also request that you give permission to local municipalities to allow the public to take ownership of your posters, AFTER the due date by which they should have been removed. Members of the public could then collect them and sell them to recyclers; if posters are taken down by municipalities, to ensure that they are recycled and not dumped. If there is any way in which MamaEarth can assist in this process please do not hesitate to contact us.

We have made this letter public and will do likewise with your response.

Yours sincerely,  
Dr Ruth Rabinowitz (Director)