

■ RECYCLING

Bali to tackle ocean pollution

MICHAEL TAYLOR

Impact will be global, promises government

LESS than half of the rubbish produced on Indonesia's resort island of Bali is recycled, with thousands of tons burnt or dumped in rivers and the ocean, researchers warned.

Only 48% of Bali's rubbish is managed responsibly through recycling or landfill, according to a five-month study by The Bali Partnership – the first step for the group's ambitious goal to end plastic pollution on the island and spur action beyond.

"What happens in Bali will always be noticed by the world," Ida Bagus Mandhara Brasika of the Bali governor's waste management task force said.

"In Bali, we are now at the right moment to stop our ocean leakage... We'll start from Bali, and the impact will be global."

The Bali Partnership, backed by Norway, is a new organisation uniting Indonesia's central and local governments, academics, waste experts and businesses, to support a national commitment to reduce ocean plastics by 70% by 2025.

Like many parts of Asia, the Indonesian archipelago of more than 17 000 islands has a fast-growing economy and population and a huge coastline with many densely populated cities.

These factors have created a "perfect storm" for rubbish finding its way into the surrounding seas, green groups said.

Rubbish collection, recycling and other waste infrastructure have largely failed to keep pace with rapid development.

In Bali, which attracts about 6.5 million international tourists annually, rubbish regularly washes up its once-pristine beaches.

"We can see with our own eyes – without a microscope – the small pieces of plastic on the beaches," said Gede Hendrawan, a professor at Bali's Udayana University who led the research.

In response, tourists, volunteer groups, hotels and local authorities all conduct regular clean-ups.

The survey, which monitored the

island's rivers and landfill sites and included 950 local households as well as interviews with waste officials and volunteers, found Bali generates about 1.6 million tons of waste each year.

About 303 000 tons of that waste are plastic, of which 33 000 tons find their way into Bali's waterways.

Indonesian and international tourists generate more than three times more waste per day than Bali residents, the study showed.

It is hoped Jakarta will use the findings to tackle the problem of plastic waste in oceans.

Two years ago, the government launched a national action plan pledging up to \$1 billion to cut ocean waste 70% by 2025.

"Now we have comprehensive data to support the government's commitment to reduce ocean plastics by 2025," Hendrawan told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Bali needed more recycling and compost processing facilities, better management of waste collection and



BALI is ready to tackle the tons of rubbish that pollutes the ocean head on. | KHAM Reuters African News Agency (ANA)

Seals in tune with humans, study finds

SCIENTISTS have found seals have an innate musical ability.

Remarkable footage shows researchers at St Andrew's University teaching three grey seals to "sing" tunes including *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*.

They also taught the seals to sing the theme from *Star Wars* and to produce vowel sounds.

Grey seals' brains recognise sounds in a similar way to ours and they produce sounds with mouths, tongues and vocal cords like we do.

The research by Dr Amanda Stansbury and Professor Vincent Janik of the Scottish Oceans Institute could be useful in helping to understand human speech disorders.

The researchers worked with the seals from birth. | Daily Mail

systems to separate rubbish from residents and businesses, he added.

At a leaders' summit starting on Thursday in Thailand, the

10-member Association of South East Asian Nations is expected to adopt a Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris. | Reuters

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A game changer for the missing middle

THE Department of Trade and Industry (dti) published revisions to the B-BBEE Codes of Good Practice. These revisions include key changes to Code 300, which specifically deals with Skills Development expenditure. This Code now allocates four points as an incentive to employers to encourage concerted contributions to bursaries for black students at all Higher Education Institutions. Chairman of the Ikusasa Student Financial Aid Programme (ISFAP), Sizwe Nxasana, believes introducing the 4 weighting points is a true game changer for alleviating the plight of South

Africa's missing middle as more companies looking to improve their BEE scorecards will benefit from this.

At 27.6%, South Africa's unemployment rate is two times higher than its closest BRICS counterpart. Our youth face an even greater crisis, with one in three unemployed and inadequately equipped to enter the marketplace. This equates to over half a million youth who require funding to pursue tertiary education in order to gain the skills necessary to obtain employment.

South Africa's "missing middle" constitute 40% of these youth, who have been left out in the cold with no access to the

R111.2 billion allocated by government for free education, as they do not meet the criteria to qualify.

According to Nxasana, "It is up to our captains of industry to rally together behind this cause and assist the youth within the missing middle."

Nxasana added, "ISFAP applauds the dti's revisions to Code 300, which has introduced a spend on bursaries from companies with a target of 2.5% leviable amount on payroll and 4 weighting points accumulation on the BEE scorecard for funding black students attending Higher Education Institutions."

Launched in 2017 as part of the national effort to solve the funding

challenge faced by the 'missing middle' students, ISFAP provides students with the full cost of funding for their studies including non-academic financial (wrap-around) support.

This programme, was modelled on the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants' Thuthuka Bursary Fund's framework. The model focuses on supporting the development of students in 11 Occupations of High Demand as gazetted by the Department of Higher Education and Training. The primary focus is to secure the future of South Africa's youth by providing needs-based assistance to students from poor and working classes.

Since the inception of its pilot programme in 2017, ISFAP has shown remarkable growth. This growth has been measured across the board, from the number of applications received, students funded, to the number of universities and funders stepping in to do their part to provide access to several critical leadership courses.

The year 2019, has seen a total of 16,500 applications, sent in from students across the country, with 1,700 of those students finally being granted ISFAP funding. This is an increase from 890 in 2017 and 1,300 in 2018. ISFAP have entered into partnerships with 11 universities currently providing over 17 courses, relat-

ing to Occupations in High Demand on offer.

"The number of donors and, as a consequence, the amount of funding that our donors have assisted us in generating, has also increased. Where we started this pilot programme in 2017 with 17 donors, in both the public and private sectors, generating approximately R53m. Today, we find ourselves in partnership with over 40 donors, generating approximately R248m. While this is significant, with over 216 000 students falling into the "missing middle" category, it is estimated that the cost of funding required from public and private donors equates to over R26bn per year," states Nxasana.

It all adds up:

1 in 3

SOUTH AFRICAN YOUTH ARE UNEMPLOYED AND INADEQUATELY EDUCATED TO ENTER THE JOB MARKET

+

OVER 500 000

YOUTH REQUIRE FUNDING TO PURSUE TERTIARY EDUCATION

+

40%

OF THESE YOUNG MINDS ARE OVERLOOKED BECAUSE THEY FALL INTO THE "MISSING MIDDLE" CATEGORY *

+

ESTIMATES REVEAL IT WILL TAKE R26 bn

A YEAR TO FUND THE TERTIARY EDUCATION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S "MISSING MIDDLE"

= NOW IS THE TIME TO RALLY TOGETHER TO SOLVE SOUTH AFRICA'S MISSING MIDDLE FUNDING CRISIS

The Ikusasa Student Financial Aid Programme (ISFAP) is the only proven and sustainable solution to funding South Africa's "missing middle" students. ISFAP will help you achieve maximum Skills Development Points as we address South Africa's youth education crisis.

Thuma Minal! Partner with ISFAP today.

www.isfap.co.za

To discuss a funding partnership please contact us at partners@isfap.co.za

* Missing Middle Students come from households with R350 000 to R600 000 income per annum

ISFAP
Ikusasa Student Financial Aid Programme

Our founding members:

