



Ministry of Finance
Private bag x 115, Pretoria, 0001. Tel : 012 315 5372

MINISTRY OF FINANCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
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PRESS RELEASE

The Minister of Finance Trevor Manuel, MP, has approved a revised levy on plastic bags this week. A levy of 3 cents per bag, applicable to all sizes of plastic shopping bags, will be implemented as of 01 June 2004. The revised levy was finalised with due consideration to the objectives of the levy and concerns raised by all the relevant stakeholders.

The 3 cents per bag levy would, in the current circumstances, be appropriate to address environmental objectives and accommodate concerns related to employment and competitiveness of the affected industries. A portion of the revenues raised will be used to promote the recycling of plastic waste and general environmental awareness amongst all sectors of society.

For media queries contact Thoraya Pandy on 012 315 5944 or
082 416 8416

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