

## ■ RECYCLING



Used oil collectors prepare to decant oil from a vehicle.

# Competitive used oil industry creates jobs

THE used oil industry in South Africa is bucking the trend and creating a significant number of jobs.

According to the latest figures from the Quarterly Employment Statistics (QES) survey, released by Statistics South Africa, South Africa has seen a decrease in the number of jobs being created. But a survey commissioned by The Rose Foundation (Recycling Oil Saves the Environment) shows a number of jobs have been created through the recycling of used oil.

According to research house The Research LampPost, the results indicate that about 1 300 staff ranging from drivers, labourers and administrators to operators and managers are employed in the sector.

Data from 84 licensed collectors, 11 licensed processors and 13 licensed bulking points was included in the study. This was used as a basis to estimate the total employment contribution for the collection and processing of an estimated 120 million litres a year of used oil in South Africa.

Most of the collectors and processors are in Gauteng.

The study results show the used oil industry as a highly competitive business, with most collectors saying the biggest challenges they faced were fierce competition and pricing, which in turn affected their profit margins and sustainability.

The Rose Foundation said many of the part-time collectors show entrepreneurial flair in combining used oil collection with other services such as selling automatic lube systems, fire suppression, garage equipment and hydraulics, hazardous waste removal, scrap metal collection, cleaning wash bays and collection and processing of plastic oil bottles and used oil filters. | Network Reporter