



Used oil collectors prepare to decant oil from their vehicle

# This oil works...

According to the latest figures from the Quarterly Employment Statistics (QES) survey, released by Statistics South Africa, the country has seen a decrease in the number of jobs being created. But the Rose Foundation has good news: a significant number of jobs have been created through the recycling of used oil.

**R**ecycling Oil Saves the Environment (ROSE) is a national non-profit organisation made up of the major lubricating oil producers and distributors and established in South Africa in 1994 in response to the growing environmental concerns around the consumption and recycling of oil and petroleum.

It promotes and encourages the environmentally responsible and legally compliant collection and recycling of used oils and related waste in South Africa, through education, compliance support, audits and incentives. Since its inception, it has received great support from industry stakeholders and has championed the responsible collection of well over 1 billion litres of used oil in South Africa.

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This is a recycling success story – the used oil industry is a sustainable sector that not only employs many people but also effectively supports their dependents, ROSE Foundation CEO, Bubele Nyiba.

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The recycling of used lubricant oil in South Africa is a well-established and thriving industry thanks largely to the efforts of foundation and the compliance of licensed collectors and processors across South Africa. Together, they ensure that the collection, transportation, storage, refining, recycling, disposal and utilisation of used oil is managed in a sustainable, ethical, environmentally compliant and responsible manner.

Now the job creation opportunities speak for themselves and a study compiled by The Research LampPost, indicated that approximately 1,300 new jobs ranging from drivers, labourers and administrators, to operators and managers, have been created in this sector. On average the employed person is supporting up to four dependants.

The majority of collectors and processors are situated in Gauteng, where nearly 50% of the oil is collected. If this sector continues to grow as it should this offers some hope in the development of new skills for the job market and puts the used oil industry into the category of a highly competitive business despite fierce competition and pricing.

Despite the challenges many of the part-time collectors show entrepreneurial flair in combining used oil collection with other services such 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.

**Recycling can only work if it is economically sustainable. The ROSE foundation offers support in the form of training, audits, equipment and incentives.**

**For more information and to find out about registered collectors and processors contact the ROSE Foundation on (021) 448 7492 or visit [www.rosefoundation.org.za](http://www.rosefoundation.org.za)**