

SAY NO TO PLASTIC BAGS

Plastic waste is a problem all over the world, but African governments were amongst the first to take action. Thirty one African countries have now banned or put high taxes on single use plastic - Eritrea banned single use plastic bags way back in 2004, Tanzania in 2006, Uganda and Botswana in 2007.

In 2017 Kenyans were still using 100 million thin plastic supermarket bags every year! The government said no, and didn't just impose a ban but penalties of up to 4 years in prison or a \$38,000 fine! In South Africa the penalty for using thin, single use plastic bags can be up to 10 years in prison!!

If you do use plastic bags, choose the thicker kind that can be used many times. That will **REDUCE** the number produced. Some shops and traders may appreciate it if you bring the bags back to be **RE-USED**. Rubbish can also be **RE-USED** for fun. Lots of the things we throw away can be made into art for school or home projects. You can make dragons from old cardboard, snakes from shiny sweet wrappers, mermaids from plastic bottles! Or they can be **RECYCLED**. This means they are melted down and the plastic is remoulded into another useful thing. Recycling one plastic bottle can save the energy to power an electric light for six hours. The best way to deal with plastic bags and bottles may be to **REDUCE** their use.

JUST SAY NO!

