



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref:02/1/5/2

MINISTER

QUESTION NO. 1591 FOR WRITTEN REPLY: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

A draft reply to Ms J Edwards (DA) to the above-mentioned question is enclosed for your consideration.

**MS NOSIPHO NGCABA
DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

DATE:

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

**MRS B E E MOLEWA, MP
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

DATE:

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 1591 {NW1761E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 17 of 2016

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 27 May 2016

Ms J Edwards (DA) to ask the Minister of Environmental Affairs:

In light of the World Health Organisation's finding in its 2016 update to the Global Urban Ambient Air Pollution Database that Hartbeespoort in the Madibeng Local Municipality in North West is the most polluted region in the country, what steps has she taken to (a) reduce and (b) combat the high levels of air pollution in the specified town?

NW1761E

1591. THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPLIES:

Firstly, it should be noted that the quality of ambient air is monitored by an array of instruments in the country. The reason for this is to understand pollution levels and sources so that we can develop interventions to reduce the pollution. Notwithstanding, it should be noted that pollution travels in air parcels, which know no political boundary. As a result, there is long range transport of pollution in some cases and even though the pollution can be measured in a specific place it may not necessarily be generated by a local source. Such is the case with the World Health Organization's report pertaining to Madibeng Local Municipality.

The same Madibeng Local Municipality forms part of the Waterberg-Bojanala Priority Area which has been declared as the third national air quality priority declared on 15 June 2012 by the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs (Gazette No. 35435 and Notice No.495). This is not the highest polluted area in South Africa as there are problems elsewhere, as such the reason for the declaration is to manage the problems related to air pollution proactively due to planned developments.

The Waterberg-Bojanala Priority Area borders with Botswana and includes the Waterberg District Municipality in Limpopo Province and parts of the Bojanala Platinum District Municipality in the North West Province. The air quality management plan (AQMP) that we have developed takes into account

current and planned developments in South Africa and across the border (in Botswana) in order to address the air pollution challenges that may arise also from long range transport of air parcels. This management plan (promulgated 09 December 2015) provides a roadmap to address the current and future state of air quality within the area and outlines what needs to be done to ensure clean air quality within region. The plans also prescribes goals and objectives for the region and further outline short - and long - term policies and controls to improve air quality. Currently, this air quality management plan is under implementation, coordinated by DEA with the participation of authorities in the Madibeng Local Municipality and North West province.

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