



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref:02/1/5/2

MINISTER

QUESTION NO. 161 FOR WRITTEN REPLY: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

A draft reply to **Mr N Paulsen (EFF)** to the above-mentioned question is enclosed for your consideration.

**MS NOSIPHO NGCABA
DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

DATE:

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

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

DATE:

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 161 {NW168E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO.1 of 2018

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 08 February 2018

Mr N Paulsen (EFF) to ask the Minister of Environmental Affairs:

Has the SA National Roads Agency complied with the conditions in the environmental authorisations of the N2 Wild Coast toll road?

161. THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPLIES:

No. The SA National Roads Agency has not complied with some of the conditions in the environmental authorisations of the N2 Wild Coast toll road.

The Departmental Environmental Management Inspectors conducted a site visit on the N2 Wild Coast Highway where it was discovered that the South African National Roads Agency (SANRAL) has not complied with some of the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation. These non-compliances were further highlighted in the reports presented by the Environmental Control Officer (ECO) at the Environmental Management Committee's quarterly (EMC) meeting. . The following are some of the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation that were not complied with by SANRAL:

(a) Condition 6.2.11.1 which provides as follows:

The applicant must ensure that no construction camps, dumping or stockpile of construction material is allowed in or close to the wetlands and other watercourses.

SANRAL has contravened this condition in that construction material was found stockpiled near the wetland. The contravention was observed during the site visit by officials mentioned above and was also reported by the Environmental Control Officer (ECO) during the meeting of the Environmental Management Committee (EMC) held on the 14 February 2018.

(b) Condition 6.2.12.3 which stipulates as follows:

All rare, endangered and endemic species and species of conservation value in the road reserve must be translocated, in close cooperation with South African National Biodiversity Institute (formerly National Botanical Gardens), to a suitable nursery with the aim to be re-establish them in a national botanical garden that was is to be created in Pondoland Centre of Endemism or a suitable existing conservation area.

Contravention of the condition: SANRAL has contravened the condition mentioned above in that it failed to keep all rare and endangered and endemic species and species of conservation value in a suitable nursery as stipulated in the above mentioned condition. All the species that have been removed alongside the hauling roads are kept in temporary holding areas.

- (c) Condition 6.2.7.1. SANRAL failed to comply with this condition in that it commenced with the construction without finalising the Biodiversity Offset Agreement. SANRAL failed to take the necessary steps to ensure that the Biodiversity Offset Agreement is implemented on time, after it was signed by all relevant parties.

As a result of the above findings, a comprehensive compliance audit of the construction of the N2 Wild Coast Highway is being undertaken by the EMIs and other relevant competent authorities from the 13th March 2018. The purpose will be to assess compliance with the remaining conditions of the Environmental Authorisation (EA), the Environmental Management Programme (EMP), Water Use License (WUL) and all relevant specialist reports. This will enable officials from the department to ensure that all relevant authorities are included in the planned inspection. The details of whether SANRAL complies with all of the remaining conditions of the EA will be provided after the comprehensive inspection of the construction of the N2 Wild Coast Highway has been finalised.

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