



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref:02/1/5/2

MINISTER

QUESTION NO. 227 FOR WRITTEN REPLY: NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

A draft reply to **Mr J W W Julius (Gauteng: DA)** to the above-mentioned question is enclosed for your consideration.

**DR MONDE MAYEKISO
DIRECTOR-GENERAL (ACTING)**

DATE:

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

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

DATE:

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 227 {CW356E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 18 of 2016

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 16 September 2016

Mr J W W Julius (Gauteng: DA) to ask the Minister of Environmental Affairs:

Whether there are any plans to (a) lower carbon emissions and (b) assist citizens to adapt to the changing climate in South Africa; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

227. THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPLIES:

- a) Yes, there is a plan to lower greenhouse gas emissions. In 2015, Cabinet approved South Africa's climate change mitigation system framework. The system is aimed at achieving the overall national emission reduction goal as well as contributing towards South Africa's nationally determined commitment submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2015. It was introduced in phases for implementation. Phase one (2016-2020) is voluntary as there is no legal basis to set emission limits for sectors or companies. The second and subsequent phases (post-2020 period) will only become mandatory when climate change response legislation is in place. The Department has, thus far, finalised and allocated carbon budgets to a few companies, and is currently engaging with others to finalise their carbon budgets.

- b) Yes, there is a plan to coordinate citizens' actions and also assist citizens to adapt to the changing climate in South Africa. The Department undertook the Long-Term Adaptation Scenario Flagship Research to inform adaptation interventions in the country. This work includes the evaluation of the socio-economic implications of climate change in the context of the development aspiration of key sectors, namely: water, agriculture and forestry, human health, marine fisheries, and biodiversity. Furthermore, the Department, through the South African Weather Service, provides timely climate related information and warning to ensure that communities make timely informed decisions to minimise climate related impacts. The Department is further working with South African Biodiversity Institute, the National Implementation Entity of the Adaptation Fund, to coordinate implementation of adaptation projects, namely: uMngeni Resilient Project; Mopani and Namakwa

resilient projects. These projects focus on a number of activities, which includes climate smart agriculture and climate resilient livelihoods. The Department further coordinated capacity building for municipalities to ensure integration of adaptation activities into their planning process.

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