



## environmental affairs

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

---

Ref: 02/1/5/2

**MINISTER**

### **QUESTION NO. 236 FOR ORAL REPLY: NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

A draft reply to Ms E Prins (**Western Cape: ANC**) to the above-mentioned question is enclosed for your consideration.

**MS NOSIPHO NGCABA  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

**DATE:**

**DRAFT REPLY APPROVED AS AMENDED**

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

**DATE:**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**(For oral reply)**

**QUESTION NO. 236 {CO357E}**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 29 of 2017**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION: 10 October 2017**

**Ms E Prins (Western Cape: ANC) to ask the Minister of Environmental Affairs:**

(a) What progress has been made regarding her department's climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies and (b) how does the strategies relate to the protection of South Africa's fresh water supply and catchments?

CO357E

**236. THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPLIES:**

(a)

South Africa's first greenhouse gas emission reduction system framework was approved by the Cabinet in 2015. The department has started implementing the first phase of the system which includes the allocation of carbon budgets to companies, setting desired emission reduction objectives and the development of the pollution prevention plan regulations in respect of greenhouse gases. The approach to phase 2 (for post 2020) is currently being finalised. The plan is to implement mandatory carbon budgets from 2021. The next step is finalisation of the legal framework to underpin phase 2 of the emission reduction system, including carbon budgets.

**Climate Change Adaptation Strategies**

The National Climate Change Adaptation strategy is being developed and aimed at outlining the national climate change adaptation objective and guiding on-going and future climate change adaptation efforts. It will act as a cornerstone for adaptation actions into the future. This will encourage synergy in climate change adaptation efforts at the national, provincial, and local level, with these efforts all contributing to certain shared priorities; it will enable climate change adaptation in any one sector to leverage the work of other sectors, creating positive co-benefits and reducing negative trade-offs across sectors; and, a common strategic vision will allow resources to be allocated in a more deliberate way. The Department of Environmental Affairs has had nation-wide stakeholder consultations on the draft national adaptation strategy, as in the process of reviewing the draft for publication for public comments.

(b)

The Department of Water and Sanitation finalised and published a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in 2014. The strategy is currently under a review process which will be finalised in 2019. As part of the implementation of the strategy, the department finalised a Risk and Vulnerability Assessment in the Vaal and the Umzimvubu – Tsitsikama Catchments in the 2016/17 financial year. This assessment provided insight on possible climate change impacts on the catchments, and explored possible adaptation response strategies that could be deployed to reduce the impacts.

The Department OF Water and Sanitation is, in this current financial year, undertaking a similar assessment for the Orange River System and the Northern Interior (Olifants, Limpopo and Inkomati-Usuthu); and has prioritised assessments for the Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal Provinces for the 2018/19 financial year.

- a) We have Climate Change response Policy in place.
- b) Currently consulting on a draft Bill on Climate Change.
- c) NDC agreed to, submitted to UNFCCC and ratified by Parliament.
- d) Mitigation plans of Pre – 2020 action under implementation are in the following sectors:
  - i) Energy
    - Solar, wind and waste to energy being generated and already over 6000 mega costs connected to the Eskom energy and we are among the highest investment of over R200 billion in green energy.
  - ii) Transport
    - Green Energy Strategy under implementation
    - Green industrial programme being implemented
    - Green Rapid Transport in place in Tshwane, Cape Town and Johannesburg metros
    - Green cars already under use by a number of people
    - Gautrain in use and reduced number of cars that were increasing emissions
  - iii) Build Program
    - 1m Solar water heaters being installed in houses of the needy and middle income group

---ooOoo---