



## environmental affairs

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Ref:02/1/5/2

MINISTER

QUESTION NO. 11 FOR ORAL REPLY: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

A draft reply to Mr M S Mabika (NFP) 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 oral reply)

**QUESTION NO. 11 {NO459E}**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 3 of 2016**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION: 23 February 2016**

**Mr M S Mabika (NFP) to ask the Minister of Environmental Affairs:**

1. What does her Department intend to do to protect the lives of the citizens of Jacobs, Wentworth, Austerville and Bluff in KwaZulu-Natal, who have been living in a highly polluted area, resulting in high levels of lung infections, cancer and other illnesses; and
2. what study has been done on air pollution and its effects on the specified areas and surrounding communities?

## 11. THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPLIES:

1. The Minister of Environmental Affairs has published a notice that defines the levels of safe air. The municipalities are required to develop Air Quality Management Plans (AQMPs) that outline measures that need to be taken in order to make the air clean.

Historically, the South Durban Basin has been an area of concern, and in the early 2000's the National, Provincial and Local Government, through the Multipoint Plan, initiated a number of interventions, including the commissioning of an ambient monitoring station and a Health Study in the South Durban Basin. In 2003 the pollution levels were exceeding the National Ambient Standards, and in 2015 measurements have indicated that the sulphur dioxide levels are 30% of the National Standard.

eThekweni Municipality is complying with the municipal mandate with reference to the National Environment Management; Air Quality Act (2004) in that the following activities are undertaken to manage air quality within the area.

- a) Continuous ambient monitoring at six monitoring stations within the South Durban Basin. Concentrations of criteria pollutants are compared with National Ambient Standards and intervention strategies are implemented where high levels/ exceedances are experienced.
- b) Atmospheric Emission Licensing (AEL's) of all Listed Activities. Sixty (60) licenses have been issued in the South Durban Basin, all of which include stringent conditions e.g. source emission monitoring and reporting.
- c) Compliance monitoring of all Listed Activities, Controlled Emitters and Scheduled Trade Industries responsible for emissions.
- d) Atmospheric Emission Licence Holders are required to submit Atmospheric Emission Reports by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 prior to being checked, verified and audited if necessary by the Air Quality Officer.
- e) Completed an Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) for the municipality
- f) Have held two Stakeholder meetings during the past year within the South Durban Basin as part of the AQMP process to obtain input from all stakeholders.
- g) Air Pollution complaints are investigated both during and after hours.

2. The department has initiated an air pollution cost benefit analysis study which assesses the cost of air pollution associated with human health impacts observed elsewhere. This is a country-wide study; and a health impact assessment (literature based) will be done as part of the study. The draft report is expected in March 2017. For economic reasons and constraints, the study will assess potential health impacts at district level and will not focus on specific towns and locations. The work of assessing local health impacts can be done as part of the municipal air quality management plans that the municipalities are required to develop in terms of section 15 of the Air Quality Act.

An Air Quality Management Plan has been completed for eThekweni together with Dispersion Modelling, there is also a recommendation for a further Health Study to be done in the South Durban Basin, subject to funds availability.

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