



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref:02/1/5/2

MINISTER

QUESTION NO. 272 FOR ORAL REPLY: NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

A draft reply to **Ms T J Mokwele (North West: EFF)** 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 written reply)

QUESTION NO. 272 {CO393E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO.29 of 2017

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 10 October 2017

Ms T J Mokwele (North West: EFF) to ask the Minister of Environmental Affairs:

(1) What is her department's plan to deal with the 6 000 abandoned mines throughout the country which are an extreme environmental hazard;

(2) whether her department is working with the Department of Mineral Resources to address this issue; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

CO393E

272. THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPLIES:

- (1) Department of Environmental affairs is aware that the Department of mineral resources (DMR) together with the Council of Geoscience have a plan to deal with derelict and ownerless mines, which involves some of rehabilitation. This Department will partner with DMR in order to assist where we can rehabilitate these mines;
- (2) Yes, the Department is collaborating with DMR in addressing the challenges resulting from historical ownerless mining. The Department is part of the Task Team dealing with this matter. Department of Environmental Affairs task is to determine the standards for confirming what constitutes a rehabilitated mine. Our task is not to eradicate such ownerless and derelict mines but to determine standards for the rehabilitation, from an environmental point of view.