



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref:02/1/5/2

MINISTER

QUESTION NO. 306 FOR ORAL REPLY: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

A draft reply to Mr Z S Makhubele (ANC) 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 Oral reply)

QUESTION NO. 306 {NO4212E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 43 of 2017

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Mr Z S Makhubele (ANC) to ask the Minister of Environmental Affairs:

With reference to the challenges the SA Weather Service (SAWS) face with regard to their observation infrastructure (details furnished), what measures will her department undertake to ensure that the SAWS has well-maintained equipment to enable forecasting and issuing of weather warnings on time to save lives, especially of the vulnerable and the poor? NO4212E

306 THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPLIES:

Challenges: All SAWS networks are required to meet World Meteorological Organization and other standards including South African accreditation standards e.g. SANAS for Air Pollution monitoring. Rapid developments in network sensor technology often means that SAWS has a lag in replacing old technology with new. Maintenance of existing technology and operational efficiencies are a constant challenge including training of technical staff therefore annual budgetary provision that includes CAPEX are key to closing this gap and ensuring continued availability of data and meeting of international and local standards.

Measures: The status of the observation networks and data availability from these networks is reported regularly through the Board and to the Department and Parliament, and captured in the Annual Report. Annual targets are set to ensure continuous improvement and tracking of the use of resources on regular maintenance. Modernization plans are approved through MTEF allocations to the SAWS including provision for Capital Expenditure. Reporting networks include: the Lightning Detection Network, the automatic rainfall stations, the radar network, the upper air monitoring network, and the Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW) station in Cape Point, as well as ocean buoys networks deployed in the southern oceans. The observation networks are present both on land, in the oceans and on the islands.

Monitoring of Services: Data that is made available through these networks has a direct impact on the quality of Services to the South African people, be it in lives saved through effective Disaster Risk Reduction services, Air Quality Monitoring and reporting, or through monitoring and reporting on Green House gases. South Africa is also able to meet its international obligations and support to international agreements through the data provided by these networks. Monitoring of the services is done through regular reporting by the SAWS to its Board, the Ministry and to Parliament on a quarterly and annual basis. In addition all resources dedicated to the Networks are made transparent in the annual financial statements.

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