



## **environmental affairs**

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**Ref: O2/1/5/2**

**MINISTER  
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**(For written reply)**

**QUESTION NO. 569 {NW759E}**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 11 of 2020**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION: 17 April 2020**

**Mr M N Paulsen (EFF) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:**

What proposals will her department consider to maintain the standard of improved air quality that has been a result of the lockdown period to curb the spread of COVID-19?

**569. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:**

The Department, Provinces and Municipalities have a comprehensive and continuous monitoring system for ambient air quality in the Republic. The results obtained from the monitoring stations are displayed in the South African Air Quality Information System (SAAQIS) and are accessible on the website: [www.saaqis.environment.gov.za](http://www.saaqis.environment.gov.za). The same information is accessible in a modern application (App) that can be downloaded from both the Android and iOS platforms and is called "SAAQIS". With this App, the people of the Republic can access the State of Air information in real-time on their mobile devices during and beyond the lockdown period.

Ambient air quality monitoring data from the SAAQIS has been assessed to understand qualitative changes, if any, in the trends of air pollutants across the country (significant or insignificant) during the lockdown period. The observations made are presented in Annexure 1 attached hereto. There is a general reduction in pollution associated with motor vehicles as quite a number of vehicles are off the roads. However, it is expected that such a reduction is not a permanent one, as the lockdown is temporary. Industrial activity has also reduced during the period of lockdown, which is also expected to change when the lockdown period ends. The Minister will continue to implement interventions to reduce air pollution as previously planned in the Department's Strategic and Annual Plans after the lockdown.



**MS B D CREECY, MP**  
**MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

DATE: 1/5/2020