



## **environmental affairs**

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

---

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

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
(For written reply)**

**QUESTION NO. 763 {NW965E}  
INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 14 of 2020**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION: 08 May 2020**

**Mr J R B Lorimer (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:**

- (1) Whether municipalities and district municipalities report directly to her with regard to the establishment of air monitoring stations; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what (a) number of (i) local municipalities and (ii) district municipalities in the (aa) Northern Cape, (bb) Eastern Cape and (cc) Western Cape have an air monitoring station and (b) is the name of each specified municipality;
- (2) which of the specified air monitoring stations at the municipalities are functional and/or operational;
- (3) what (a) number of air monitoring stations at the municipalities is not functioning effectively and (b) is the reason for it not being operational; and
- (4) what is the reason that some of the local and/or district municipalities do not have an air monitoring station?

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

- (1) Municipalities and district municipalities do not report directly to the Minister with regard to the establishment of air monitoring stations. The National Environmental Management Air Quality Act (NEMAQA) and National Framework for Air Quality Management stipulate that spheres of government, at the national, provincial and local levels are autonomous, "how" these functions are to be implemented is up to each department and/or municipality. The national department, therefore, does not dictate how other autonomous spheres of government should establish air quality monitoring stations. However, the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries continues to provide assistance and guidance to all spheres of government through various means, including, but not limited to: establishment of air quality monitoring information systems and reporting of data to the South African Air Quality Information System (SAAQIS); air quality monitoring standards and guidance and all relevant tools to support those established monitoring stations. Support for municipalities relating to the functionality of their ambient monitoring stations is also provided by Provinces as they conduct their oversight functions on municipalities. The Minister responsible for Environmental Affairs receives a quarterly report on the functionality of ambient air quality monitoring stations through the governance MINMEC structures.

The tables below provide responses to the Parliamentary Question 763 {NW965E}. All stations within Northern Cape, Eastern Cape and Western Cape provinces are listed in the tables below. **Those highlighted in red represent the non-operational air monitoring stations.**

**(aa) Northern Cape Province**

<b>1. What (a) number of (i) local municipalities and (ii) district municipalities in the Northern Cape Province have an air monitoring station and (b) is the name of each specified municipality?</b>	<b>(2) Which of the specified air monitoring stations at the municipalities are functional and/or operational?</b>	<b>(3) What (a) number of air monitoring stations at the municipalities is not functioning effectively and (b) is the reason for it not being operational?</b>
<p><b>No local/district municipalities have monitoring stations.</b></p> <p>There are, however, 2 continuous monitoring stations in the Province - one owned by industry (Kolomela) and the other owned by SAWS/DEFF (Nieuwoudtville Karoo Station).</p> <p><b>Provincial department has two micro-sensors stations</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Tswelopele correctional centre in Kimberley (Francis Baard DM)</li><li>2. Hendrick Visser station in Springbok (Namakwa DM)</li></ol>	<p>No municipalities in the province have monitoring stations.</p> <p>The province has procured micro-sensors to support provincial monitoring, and the two sensors are functional.</p>	<p>No municipalities in the province have monitoring stations.</p> <p>Provincial micro-sensors are operational</p>

**(bb) Eastern Cape Province**

<p><b>1. What (a) number of (i) local municipalities and (ii) district municipalities in the Eastern Cape have an air monitoring station and (b) Is the name of each specified municipality?</b></p>	<p><b>(2) Which of the specified air monitoring stations at the municipalities are functional and/or operational?</b></p>	<p><b>(3) What (a) number of air monitoring stations at the municipalities is not functioning effectively and (b) is the reason for it not being operational?</b></p>
<p><b><i>In the Province there are 39 Municipalities of which 2 are Metros, 6 District Municipalities and the balance Local Municipalities.</i></b></p> <p>Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality has three air monitoring station, located in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• East London</li> <li>• Empilweni Gompo Health Care</li> <li>• Zwelitsha Township.</li> </ul>	<p><b>All the three monitoring stations in Buffalo City are operational:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• East London</li> <li>• Empilweni Gompo Health Care</li> <li>• Zwelitsha Township.</li> </ul>	<p>Two air monitoring stations – both stations’ network connectivity keeps disconnecting to the SAAQIS. The network connectivity needs to be upgraded. Load shedding and power cuts interrupt the data collection.</p>
<p><b><i>Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan has five monitoring stations:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Algoa Park Clinic</li> <li>• Motherwell Day Hospital</li> <li>• PE Delta (GM Caravan)</li> <li>• Uitenhage</li> <li>• Walmer</li> </ul>	<p><b><i>All stations from Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan are operational:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Algoa Park Clinic</li> <li>• Motherwell Day Hospital</li> <li>• PE Delta (GM Caravan)</li> <li>• Uitenhage</li> <li>• Walmer</li> </ul>	<p><b><i>All are operational subject to load shedding and data collection.</i></b></p>

**(cc) Western Cape Province**

<p><b>1. What (a) number of (i) local municipalities and (ii) district municipalities in the WC Province have an air monitoring station and (b) is the name of each specified municipality?</b></p>	<p><b>(2) Which of the specified air monitoring stations at the municipalities are functional and/or operational?</b></p>	<p><b>(3) What (a) number of air monitoring stations at the municipalities is not functioning effectively and (b) is the reason for it not being operational?</b></p>
<p><b>Saldanha Bay Local Municipality has two monitoring stations located in:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vredenburg</li> <li>• Saldanha Bay</li> </ul> <p><b>West Coast District Municipality has one monitoring station located in:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Velddrift</li> </ul> <p><b>City of Cape Town Metro has 14 monitoring stations located in:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>City Hall</b></li> <li>• <b>Athlone</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Saldanha Bay Local Municipality has two monitoring stations, which are operational:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vredenburg</li> <li>• Saldanha Bay</li> </ul> <p><b>West Coast District Municipality has one monitoring station, which is operational:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Velddrift</li> </ul> <p><b>The following City of Cape Town stations are operational, with the exception of some instruments to be repaired at some stations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Somerset West</li> </ul>	<p><b>City of Cape Town Metro, in</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- City Hall, decommissioned due to alterations on site</li> <li>- Athlone, decommissioned due to movement of lab</li> <li>- Somerset West, SO2 analyser at supplier for assessment</li> </ul> <p><b>DEA&amp;DP</b></p> <p>All stations are affected by aging infrastructure, which requires analysers to be replaced and/or repaired. Budget is not available to replace the aged analysers. There also are no spare analysers which can be used as replacements due to budget constraints. Specific criteria pollutants affected are as follows, with repairs and assessment pending budget availability:</p>

<p><b>1. What (a) number of (i) local municipalities and (ii) district municipalities in the WC Province have an air monitoring station and (b) is the name of each specified municipality?</b></p>	<p><b>(2) Which of the specified air monitoring stations at the municipalities are functional and/or operational?</b></p>	<p><b>(3) What (a) number of air monitoring stations at the municipalities is not functioning effectively and (b) is the reason for it not being operational?</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Somerset West</li> <li>• Khayelitsha</li> <li>• Wallacedene</li> <li>• Goodwood</li> <li>• Bellville South</li> <li>• Tableview</li> <li>• Platteklouf</li> <li>• Bothasig</li> <li>• Potsdam</li> <li>• Molteno</li> <li>• Atlantis</li> <li>• Foreshore</li> </ul> <p>The Western Cape Provincial Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&amp;DP) has 12</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Khayelitsha</li> <li>• Wallacedene</li> <li>• Goodwood</li> <li>• Bellville South</li> <li>• Tableview</li> <li>• Platteklouf</li> <li>• Bothasig</li> <li>• Potsdam</li> <li>• Molteno</li> <li>• Atlantis</li> <li>• Foreshore</li> </ul> <p>All monitoring stations of the DEA&amp;DP are operational, with the exception of some instruments under repair or to be repaired at</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hermanus (NOx/O3 assessed, repairs needed)</li> <li>• Paarl (SO2 assessed, repairs needed; CO to be sent for assessment)</li> <li>• Khayelitsha (SO2 assessed, repairs needed)</li> <li>• Driftsands (PM assessed, repairs needed; CO assessed, repairs needed; SO2 will be sent for assessment)</li> <li>• Malmesbury (PM assessed, repairs needed)</li> <li>• Worcester (PM in office to be sent for repair, property of DFFE and their service provider to collect)</li> </ul>

<p><b>1. What (a) number of (i) local municipalities and (ii) district municipalities in the WC Province have an air monitoring station and (b) is the name of each specified municipality?</b></p>	<p><b>(2) Which of the specified air monitoring stations at the municipalities are functional and/or operational?</b></p>	<p><b>(3) What (a) number of air monitoring stations at the municipalities is not functioning effectively and (b) is the reason for it not being operational?</b></p>
<p><b>air quality monitoring stations located in:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• George</li> <li>• Mossel Bay</li> <li>• Oudtshoorn</li> <li>• Hermanus</li> <li>• Worcester</li> <li>• Stellenbosch</li> <li>• Paarl</li> <li>• Khayelitsha</li> <li>• Driftsands</li> <li>• Hout Bay</li> <li>• St Helena Bay</li> <li>• Malmesbury</li> </ul>	<p><b>some stations.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• George</li> <li>• Mossel Bay</li> <li>• Oudtshoorn</li> <li>• Hermanus</li> <li>• Worcester</li> <li>• Stellenbosch</li> <li>• Paarl</li> <li>• Khayelitsha</li> <li>• Driftsands</li> <li>• Hout Bay</li> <li>• St Helena Bay</li> <li>• Malmesbury</li> </ul>	

- (4) Air monitoring stations are expensive assets that require significant resources to establish and effectively operate. Current market estimations to procure a fully-fledged air monitoring station are in the range of R2.5mil, with estimated operational costs of at least 15% per annum of the initial investment. In addition, these stations require specialised capacity to operate. For these reasons, most municipalities rely on the provincial or national monitoring stations (in priority areas) to supplement their monitoring initiatives.

**Regards**

  
.....  
**MS B D CREECY, MP**  
**MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT**  
DATE: 22/5/2020