



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

(For oral reply)

QUESTION NO.15 {CO278E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 11 of 2023

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15. Ms C Labuschagne (Western Cape: DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

With reference to a proposed option to extend the life of coal-fired power stations by the Minister of Electricity in a recent press conference(details furnished), how will such a decision impact on (a) Cabinet's approved Just Energy Transmission Investment Plan and the R130 million of international donors and (b) the requirement that all power stations have to comply with 2020 Minimum Emissions Standards by 31 March 2025, including those that were given permission to postpone implementation?

15. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

In his weekly newsletter of 24 April 2023, His Excellency President Ramaphosa emphasised that South Africa remains committed to reduce its carbon emissions by 2030 to within a target range which is compatible with limiting global heating to 1.5°C. This is so that we can avoid the physical risks of climate change, including droughts, floods and other disasters. The President also said that to avoid the transition risks of climate change we must ensure that our goods and services in the long term remain competitive in a rapidly decarbonising world with the ever-present threat of carbon border adjustments.

In terms of compliance with the 2020 Minimum Emissions Standards by 31 March 2025, the current legal framework provides for power stations that will be decommissioned by 2030 to apply for suspension of compliance with the 2020 Minimum Emissions Standards. These stations are only required to comply with the 2015 Minimum Emission Standards. These standards relate to sulphates and nitrates, and are not primarily related to greenhouse gas emissions.

The President indicated that to prevent loadshedding we may need to revisit our decommissioning schedule. The process of re-examining our timeframes is not a reversal of our position on the just energy transition. Any decision on decommissioning will be informed by a detailed technical assessment of the feasibility of continuing to operate older plants. It will also be informed by the timeframe in which we can expect new capacity from other energy sources and the impact on our decarbonisation trajectory.

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

DATE: