

MINISTER

QUESTION NO. 2222 FOR WRITTEN REPLY: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

A draft reply to Ms D Carter (Cope) to the above-mentioned question is enclosed for your consideration.

**MS NOSIPHO NGCABA
DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

DATE:

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

**MRS B E E MOLEWA, MP
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

DATE:

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 2222 {NW2579E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 21 of 2015

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 12 June 2015

Ms D Carter (Cope) to ask the Minister of Environmental Affairs:

Whether Government is willing to act proactively and decisively to legislate far-reaching measures conforming with the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action to signify to the world that not only is the country willing to host conferences on environmental issues but willing to take a lead in following up on the specified recommendations because of the country's belief in the need to act decisively in order to mitigate climate change as a first step and then work to reverse it while the window of opportunity exists; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

NW2579E

2222. THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPLIES:

The Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) resulted from the 17th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which was hosted by South Africa in Durban in 2011. The mandate of the ADP is to develop a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the UNFCCC applicable to all Parties, which is to be completed no later than December 2015. The ADP is also, in parallel, working on options to enhance mitigation ambition in the pre-2020 period.

South Africa is engaging actively in the global preparatory negotiation process, towards the finalisation of the mandate under the Durban Platform, by the 21st Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, to be held in Paris in December 2015.

The underlying tenets of the South African negotiating position are to ensure that:

- (i) environmental and development imperatives are balanced;
- (ii) global emission reduction efforts are adequate to avert dangerous climate change while respecting the developing countries' priorities for development and eradicating poverty;
- (iii) provision of sufficient means of implementation to support both adaptation and mitigation actions by the developing countries; and
- (iv) adaptation receives equal priority with mitigation, in accordance with South Africa's National Policy Framework and the National Development Plan.

The Department of Environmental Affairs strives to give effect to the Constitutional environmental rights of all South Africans through sound environmental management policies, legislation and regulations. On climate change in particular, we are in the implementation phase of the National Climate Change Response Policy that was adopted by Cabinet in 2011. Extensive work has been done on analyzing emission reduction potential in key sectors, and work is currently underway in consultation with the key departments and stakeholders to develop an emission reduction system. Extensive work is being done by various sector departments to roll-out renewable energy sources of electricity generation and to establish lower carbon public transport systems. In addition, work has been done on developing long-term adaptation scenarios to inform adaptation planning processes. A monitoring and evaluation system is being established to make it possible to track South Africa's transition to a lower carbon and climate resilient economy.

In addition we have completed and submitted to the UNFCCC the Biennial Update Report and are working towards South Africa's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution that will be consulted with the stakeholders prior to submission to the UNFCCC.

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