



## **environmental affairs**

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Ref: 02/1/5/2

MINISTER

QUESTION NO. 469 FOR ORAL REPLY: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

A draft reply to Ms N R Bhengu (ANC) 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 WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DATE:

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For oral reply)

QUESTION NO. 469

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER **NO.40** NO4088E

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Ms N R Bhengu (ANC) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) (a) What are the relevant details regarding her department's preparations for the 18<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP 18) to be held in Doha, Qatar, from 26 November 2012 to 7 December 2012 and (b) at what stage are the negotiations of the work of the subsidiary bodies;
- (2) what (a) is the (i) role and (ii) expected impact of the South African negotiating team on the current processes these bodies with regard to an outcome at COP 18 and (b) are the further relevant details?

Ms N R Bhengu (ANC)

SECRETARY TO PARLIAMENT

HANSARD

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469. THE MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS ANSWERS:

1. (a) The 18th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC and the 8th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol will take place from Monday, 26 November to Friday, 7 December 2012 at the Qatar National Convention Centre in Doha, Qatar. It will include the following negotiation sessions:

- Eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 18)
- Eighth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 8)
- Thirty-seventh session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 37)
- Thirty-seventh session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 37)
- Seventeenth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (second part) (AWG-KP 17.2)
- Fifteenth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (second part) (AWG-LCA 15.2)
- First session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (second part) (ADP 1.2)

During 2012, South Africa participated actively in the negotiation process, following COP 17 / CMP 7. The Department of Environmental Affairs, as the National Focal Point for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, consulted stakeholders in the preparation of the national position for COP 18/CMP, through the National Committee on Climate change, which includes representation from government, business, labour, non-government organisations, and civil society. The national delegation is comprised of officials from key sector departments, as well as climate change experts from provincial and local government, and stakeholder groups.

1 (b) During COP-17 / CMP 7 in Durban, Parties agreed to a 3 pronged approach; firstly implementing urgent action now, from 2013 to 2020 (including the adoption of a 2<sup>nd</sup> Commitment Period under the Kyoto Protocol); secondly, acknowledging the inadequate

commitments to reduce emissions made thus far, a work programme to increase current pre-2020 levels of ambition; and thirdly action for the future with the negotiation of a legal agreement for the period beyond 2020. Therefore, Durban decided to finalise the Kyoto and Long-term Cooperative Action negotiations for the 2013 to 2020 period in Doha and established an Ad Hoc Working Group on Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) to address the mitigation pre-2020 ambition work programme and negotiate the future legal instrument. Negotiations during 2012, in the various subsidiary bodies have focussed on taking this work forward.

2. (a) (i) The South African negotiating team plays a critical role in shaping the strategy for negotiations, formulating the SA negotiation position based on the mandate received from Cabinet, and participating actively in negotiation sessions. The negotiating team also plays an important role of informing stakeholders of the outcomes of the meeting.

(ii) COP 18 – CMP 8 in Doha primarily has the task of adopting an amendment to the Kyoto Protocol capturing arrangements for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Commitment Period effective up till 2020 as well as concluding Convention negotiations of the climate change system for the 2013 to 2020 period. The Adhoc Working Group on the Durban Platform (ADP) started negotiations in 2012. It is directed to complete the negotiation of the future legal agreement no later than 2015, with the outcome to be adopted at COP-21 and to come into effect and be implemented from 2020. COP 18 will therefore also adopt a plan of work for the ADP to achieve these targets. At COP 18, the ADP must focus in particular on the ambition work programme for enhancing mitigation ambition, specifically to identify and to explore options for a range of actions that can close the ambition gap with a view to ensuring the highest possible mitigation efforts by all Parties. Within this context, the national delegation will be expected to engage actively in the

negotiations to secure an outcome that reflects South Africa's national interest, there be securing the achievements made in Durban in 2011.

- (a) A number of the SA delegation members play key lead negotiation roles for the Africa Group of Negotiators, including lead negotiator in the negotiations under the Kyoto Protocol and the Durban Platform, and as co-chair of the Green Climate Fund board.

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