



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref:02/1/5/2

MINISTER

QUESTION NO. 833 FOR WRITTEN REPLY: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

A draft reply to **Ms J Steenkamp (DA)** 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. 833 {NW981E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 8 of 2015

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 20 March 2015

Ms J Steenkamp (DA) to ask the Minister of Environmental Affairs:

Has she taken any steps to ensure that there is an improvement in the (a) releasing of information timeously and (b) loading of all public information on her Department's website; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

833. THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPLIES:

- (a) Yes, the I have taken steps to ensure that there is an improvement in releasing information timeously, specifically in relation to statutorily determined requests for information. In this regard, since the implementation of an electronic document management system and the centralisation of the promotion of access to information function, the Department is in 100% compliance with the prescribed timeframes for all requests and applications received in terms of the Promotion of Access to Information Act.
- (b) Yes, all public information of the Department that is in electronic format is either accessible through links from, or uploaded to, the Department's website when finalised or, alternatively, as is the case for performance information, at prescribed intervals.

Access to public information that is not currently in electronic format, such as authorisations, licences, permits, and so forth, and the information submitted in support of such applications, is provided upon request and at the cost of the applicant. In addition, historical records of authorisation processes and other departmental records are being scanned and filed electronically through a systematic process to ensure compliance in line with the requirements of the national archives legislation. The purpose of this process is to ensure easier access to information. The Department has furthermore embarked on a process to move to electronic permitting systems that will, in future, ease access to information.

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