

## **NATIONAL ASSEMBLY QUESTION:1260**

### **Dr S M van Dyk (DA) to ask the Minister of Energy:**

1. Whether the recent explosion at the Duvha-More power station was a result of (a) a backlog in service or (b) negligence during a routine inspection of the turbines warning system; if not, what is the reason for the explosion; if so, what are the relevant details;
2. Why did neither Eskom nor her department brief Parliament on this incident;
3. Whether there are three independent warning systems that shut down the turbine if it functions abnormally; if not, why not; if so, why did these systems not function correctly in order to prevent the explosion;
4. Whether the fourth safety measure, a manual trip switch, was unmanned during the time of the incident; if not, how was this conclusion reached; if so, what are the relevant details? NW1406E

### **REPLY**

1. (a)(b) The turbine, generator and associated components of Unit 4 of Eskom's Duvha Power stations were damaged at approximately 22h00 on 9 February 2011 during the course of a routine statutory test. There was no explosion. A full investigation into the incident has been initiated and once the investigation has been completed, the details of the sequence and the direct and root causes of the incident will be well known. The report is anticipated to be completed and submitted to Eskom by end of May 2011. Upon receipt of the report, Eskom will follow its normal processes of reviewing the report and subsequently communicate the findings thereof.

2. Soon after the incident, Eskom informed the Minister of Public Enterprise, the Chairperson of the Portfolio of Public Enterprises, and NERSA through the briefing notes. The public was informed through the release of a media statement.

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There are a number of mechanical and electronic protection systems that would shut down the turbine if it functions abnormally. However, with regards to the specific questions raised, once the investigation has been completed we will be in a position to respond comprehensively to the question. The awaited report will provide the details of the sequence of events, the functioning of the various protection systems, the manning of the unit and any direct or root causes of the incident.