

## **NATIONAL ASSEMBLY QUESTION: 1416**

### **Mrs C Dudley (ACDP) to ask the Minister of Energy:**

- (1) Whether in light of the recent catastrophe at Fukushima Dai-Chi power station she has reconsidered the benefits of nuclear energy as a reliable and safe form of electricity production; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether she has (a) reconsidered the cost-benefit analysis and (b) obtained reliable and dependable figures for capital and operational costs for existing and pending nuclear power stations; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?      NW1524E

### **REPLY**

1. The benefits of nuclear energy have not been reconsidered. The reasons for the energy mix as proposed in the IRP2010 have not changed due to the unfortunate accident at the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plants. The energy mix is balanced considering different factors such as the need to reduce our carbon foot print and provision of reliable & affordable electricity services to run the economy. However, the country will not ignore the lessons to be learned from this event. South Africa will continue to follow the developments in this regard and participate in different forums established to look into the accident and the subsequent response actions.
2. The cost has not been reconsidered at this stage as we have used the latest data available for estimation of capital cost, and even increased this by 40% in the IRP as a contingency. The data used is the best available and takes into account all other sources of data submitted during the IRP process. These are available on our website. The direct benefits of electricity supply are independent of its energy source.