

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY QUESTION 353

353. Mr I O Davidson (DA) to ask the Minister of Energy:

- (1) (a) How much fuel was imported in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011 up to the latest specified date for which information is available, (b) how much of this fuel was leaded fuel, (c) why is the import of leaded fuel still permitted and (d) what sectors use leaded fuel;
- (2) Whether she intends to restrict or ban the importation of leaded fuel; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? NW378E

REPLY

1. (a) The quantity of fuel imported in-
 - (i) 2010 (Jan – Dec): 2.095 billion litres
 - (ii) 2011 January (Latest): 216 million litres
- (b) None of the imported fuel was leaded.
- (c) In terms of the Regulations regarding Petroleum Products Specifications and Standards of 23 June 2006 (No. R. 627), the import of leaded petrol is *effectively* not permitted in South Africa [except in terms of sub-regulation 3(1)(h) discussed below]. Regulation 6(5) states that: “*Offering for sale, selling or providing metal-free unleaded petrol or metal-containing unleaded petrol which contains lead additives is prohibited*”, and regulation 6(6) states that: “*A licensed manufacturer or wholesaler may not import petroleum products for consumption in the Republic that do not comply with these Regulations.*”
- (d) To our knowledge, no sector uses leaded fuel. However, sub-regulation 3(1)(h) of the Regulations regarding Petroleum Products Specifications and Standards of 23 June 2006 permits the selling of “*petrol with lead additives for use in aeroplanes with internal combustion engines provided that: (i) only licensed wholesalers may sell or provide such petrol; (ii) such petrol is only sold to licensed owners or operators of aeroplanes with internal combustion engines for their own consumption; and (iii) such petrol is not stored on, sold or provided from a site.*” It should also be noted that metal-containing petrol and lead replacement petrol (LRP) are permitted in terms of the said Regulations. Metal-

containing petrol and LRP use metal-based additives other than lead. These include manganese, phosphorus or potassium bases and all three are considered safer and environmentally friendlier than lead. 95 octane LRP is available for older cars at the coast and 93 octane LRP is available for older cars in the inland region.

- (2) In line with prior Cabinet decisions, the addition of lead into all grades of petrol was banned with effect from 01 January 2006 and subsequent pieces of legislation incorporated this ban / prohibition.