

**National Assembly question: Question NW 698E**

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

- (1) Whether any transformers on Eskom's power-grid were (a) stolen or (b) damaged beyond repair between 1 and 31 December 2010 in the Brits Agricultural District in the North West province; if so, how many transformers were (i) stolen or (ii) damaged beyond repair;
- (2) how many transformers were stolen from Eskom's power-grid in the Koedoeskop Agricultural District in the Limpopo province;
- (3) (a) how many transformers were (i) stolen and (ii) damaged beyond repair in rural areas in 2010 in each province and (b) what is the (i) monetary value of the copper in a transformer and (ii) the total cost to replace the stolen and damaged transformers? NW698E

**REPLY**

- (1) (a)(i) There were 48 transformers stolen in the Brits agricultural district.  
(ii) There were no damaged transformers.
- (2) There were 51 transformers stolen in the Koedoeskop agricultural district, Limpopo Province.
- (3) (a)(i)(ii)

<b>Eskom Region</b>	<b>No of stolen/damaged transformers in (1) and (ii)</b>	<b>Replacement cost of transformers stolen and damaged beyond repair in Rands</b>
Northern	355	6 537 000
Central	151	78 700
Southern	1	25 000
Eastern	44	1 760 000
Western	25	995 331
North West	115	3 323 921
<b>Total</b>	<b>691</b>	<b>12 719 952</b>

**Comments:** The information on stolen/damaged transformers is not available per Province but per Eskom Region as detailed above. The boundaries of the Eskom regions are not aligned with Provincial boundaries, but cover the whole country. Some of

*the regions do not have a split between stolen and damaged transformers; a combined figure of stolen and damaged transformers is given. The costs provided are only replacement costs – original costs of transformers are not available.*

- (3) (b)(i)(ii) It is not possible to furnish the exact cost of copper inside the stolen transformers. The amount of copper varies among different transformer sizes, ranging from 22kg in a 25kVA transformer to 108kg in a 500kVA transformer. In addition, the price of copper on the London Metal Exchange fluctuates.

The total cost of replacing the stolen and transformers beyond repair was R12 719 952 for the period between January to December 2010.