

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY QUESTION NUMBER 1892

**Mr D C Ross (DA) to ask the Minister of Energy:**

Whether she has been informed by the Ngwathe municipality in the Free State of the (a) current capacity problems with the high power cable between Koppies and Kwakwatsi, (b) lack of maintenance on the transformers within this power grid and (c) need of a second computer system that will allow more residents of this area to buy prepaid electricity; if not, in each case, what is the position in this regard; if so, what steps has she taken to deal with these problems in each case? NW2130E

**REPLY**

The department was not informed of the challenges facing Ngwathe Municipality, but any quality of supply related incidents need to be reported to the National Regulator of South Africa. The regulator is empowered through the Electricity Regulation Act of 2006 to impose licence conditions and the quality of supply standard is one of the conditions. It is empowered to impose a penalty on the licensee for lack of compliance with the licence conditions. The Minister may only intervene if the regulator could not resolve the matter.

With regards to prepaid metering system, the department may not impose the type of meters that must be installed by the distributor. However, regulations on norms and standards for reticulation services (the regulation) were promulgated in 2008. According to the regulation, any household with consumption above 1000kWh per month must have a smart system at least by 2012. A smart system will provide similar benefits as the prepaid meter whilst allowing the distributor to control demand in its own area of supply to avoid load shedding.