

ASSEMBLY QUESTION 2058

Mrs H N Ndude (Cope) to ask the Minister of Energy:

Whether her department is actively promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency at a local government level; if not, why not; if so, what role are local structures playing in promoting climate change objectives at a local level? NW2307E

REPLY

Yes, the Department has been actively engaging Provinces, Municipalities and potential investors in renewable energy and energy efficiency. Yearly, the department conducts awareness campaign workshops around the country focusing on renewable energy, energy efficiency and the Clean Development Mechanism. In addition to awareness campaigns, the Department has programmes that are primarily funded by donor agencies which provide financial support to national renewable energy initiatives. Most of these projects, which cut across the various technologies, are at feasibility or early implementation phases.

Furthermore, the Department has been part of the Energy Efficiency GCIS Campaign ever since the cabinet approval three years back (2008). This has since been handed over to the Department at the end of March 2011 for continuation. Subsequently, the Department has developed a National Energy Efficiency Communication Strategy (NEECS) to involve all key stakeholders, that is, all government spheres, business, industry, civil society, and the public at large (citizens). The draft NEECS was circulated to all government Departments through Working Group 6 on Energy Efficiency under the Inter Ministerial Energy (IME) for inputs. After consolidation of inputs, the draft document was then circulated to NEDLAC. The draft document is currently under NEDLAC discussion through the Energy Task Team which the Department serves as a member. This consultation process is to ensure that adequate resources are mobilized including ownership of the process by all stakeholders at the level of implementation. Eskom has launched the 49m Energy Efficiency Campaign in April 2011 which was launched by the Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa. This campaign has since been running.

In terms of EE programme, 21 Municipalities have over the past 2yrs participated in the energy efficiency lighting programme where old technologies in the street, traffic and buildings are being

retrofitted with energy efficient technologies. In addition to this, five municipalities have been implementing SWHs within their areas of supply. It is envisaged that going forward more municipalities will be participating in these programme, considering the foundation laid to date.

Specific examples include the Solar Park Initiative where the Department is actively working with the Northern Cape Government (provincial and local spheres) and CEF to establish a pilot Solar Park of at least 1000MW during the first phase.

In the North West, various workshops organised by Invest North West were held around the Province during the current financial year and the Department participated in all these workshops, giving presentations on opportunities within the renewable energy sector. Presentations have also been made to the Eastern Cape Energy Forum organised by the Department of Local Government and Traditional Affairs as well as at the Eastern Cape Climate Change Conference.

Currently, the Department is participating in all the Climate Change Provincial Summits for COP 17 preparations in which both renewable energy and energy efficiency projects remain key subjects for deliberation in relation to local economic development and green economy programmes.