

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY QUESTION 2937

Mr S J Masango (DA) to ask the Minister of Energy:

- (1) Whether she has been informed of ageing (a) cables and (b) electrical equipment at Bethal, Govan Mbeki Municipality; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (i) what action has been taken to rectify this situation, (ii) what are the details of this action plan, (iii) when (aa) was the action plan implemented and (bb) will it be finalised and (iv) what are the costs involved;
- (2) Whether a contingency plan is in place to avoid unnecessary electricity supply failures; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) Whether a future plan has been formulated to replace ageing (a) cables and (b) electrical equipment; if not, why not, in each case; if so, what are the relevant details in each case?

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REPLY

- (1) The Minister and National Department of Energy (DOE) are aware of the challenges that the electricity distribution licensees (municipalities) at the Local Government are facing. Namely underinvestment in the electricity distribution industry in respect of maintenance, refurbishment, and strengthening.
- (2) All municipal distributors of electricity have the obligation to invest in renewal of aging electricity distribution assets (cables and electrical equipment etc.) as per the licence conditions issued by the Electricity Regulator (NERSA) who also monitor compliance to the terms and conditions. The Municipal action plans within the relevant financial period are presented and approved by the relevant council and implemented according to municipal financial and operational capabilities.
- (3) In the DOE's performance plans for the fiscal year 2011/12 and beyond, there is provision for a multiyear initiative, targeted at addressing the challenges of the electricity distribution industry in the short and longer term. A Cabinet approval would be sought as soon as possible for getting this multiyear initiative under way.