



**MINISTRY OF ENERGY
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY QUESTION 1411

Mr J F Smalle (DA) to ask the Minister of Energy:

- (1) How many turbines are there at the Matla Power Station in Mpumalanga;
- (2) whether any of the turbines are tripped from time to time; if not, why not; if so, (a)(i) how often and (ii) why are they tripped and (b) what are the (i) policies and (ii) processes regulating the tripping of turbines? NW1608E

Reply

- 1) Matla Power Station has six (6) units with one main turbine per unit.
- 2) (a) (i) During the 2011/12 financial year, Matla experienced 29 unit trips while connected to the grid. Of the 29 unit trips, 9 were initiated by the turbine protection system.
(ii) Trips may be initiated from the boiler or the turbine and occur either automatically or by manual intervention. Turbines are tripped via plant protection systems or by the operator to ensure people safety and prevent plant damage.
- 2) (b)(i) and (ii)

The tripping of turbines is governed by a turbine protection standard which is based on the original equipment manufacturer's recommendations and international best practices. The standard provides the minimum requirements for protections to trip turbines during operation to ensure people and plant safety. These protections are tested on a predetermined frequency to ensure that systems are fully operational.

