

2153. Mr L W Greyling (ID) to ask the Minister of Energy:

- (1) With reference to her reply to question 1595 on 18 July 2012, (a) in respect of each specified year, which traffic rule was violated and (b) what was the speed of the vehicle in the case of speeding fines incurred;
- (2) whether the traffic fines incurred have been paid; if not, why not; if so, (a) by whom and (b) when? NW2674E

Reply

The National Road Traffic Act, No. 93 of 1996 (the Act) is clear regarding the transgression of traffic laws. Section 60 of the Act provides that certain drivers may exceed the general speed limit. These include *"the driver of a fire-fighting vehicle, a rescue vehicle or an ambulance who drives such vehicle in the carrying out of his or her duties, a traffic officer who drives a vehicle in the carrying out of his or her duties or any person driving a vehicle while engaged in civil protection..."* This section applies provided that the person exempt drives the vehicle concerned with due regard to the safety of other road users. In addition, the vehicle must be fitted with a siren and the siren and/or identification lamps shall be in operation while speeding.

Ministers are driven by members of the special protection unit (SPU) while these members are engaged in their duties of civil protection. As a result, while on duty the members of the special protection unit are protected by the legislative dispensation as outlined in s.60 of the Act. Therefore, if a Minister's vehicle gets a speeding fine whilst being driven by a person conducting his/her civil protection duties and after such a person has complied with the legislative requirements of exercising safety and using a siren, such a fine will be set aside.

If in the conduct of their duties, it is found that a person engaged in civil protection exceeds the speed limit without due course, such actions must be reported and shall be investigated.