



**MINISTRY OF ENERGY  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**National Assembly Question 1183**

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

- (1) Whether Mossgas has submitted its planned shutdown schedule for its refineries for the (a) 2012-13 and (b) future financial years; if not, why not; if so, what are the scheduled shutdowns;
- (2) whether her department has identified measures to address possible shortages of (a) liquid petroleum gas and (b) fuel after the planned shutdowns; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details??      NW1378E

**Reply 1:**

1. There is currently no oil company called Mossgas that is operating in the South African petroleum sector. PetroSA, which is our national oil company, was formed in July 2000 out of a merger of the business of Mossgas and Soekor to effectively develop and exploit the crude oil and gaseous hydrocarbon resources of South Africa. It operates one refinery in Mossel Bay.
  - (a) According to the current shutdown schedule, PetroSA does not have any planned shutdown for the 2012/13 financial year.
  - (b) Based on the information provided by PetroSA, it will have an eight-day total shutdown in April 2013, which means that there will be no production during this period. In October 2013, PetroSA will also have a total shutdown of 29 days for maintenance purposes.

2. (a) South Africa is confronted by the fact that it does not have sufficient domestic production of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) due to increased demand. Hence, solutions must emanate from both the supply side and demand side management of LPG. On the demand management, the Department of Energy has collaborated with the South African Petroleum Industry Association (SAPIA), the Liquefied Petroleum Gas Safety Association of Southern Africa (LPGASASA) and associations of fuel retailers in embarking on an awareness campaign to request LPG users to fill up their cylinders well on time before the winter season. The campaign also includes the safe use and handling of LPG. On the supply management side, the LPG suppliers have assured the Department that they will be importing LPG and the relevant import documents have been approved by International Trade Administration Commission (ITAC) at the recommendation of the Department of Energy. In this regard, the Department is monitoring the arrival schedule of the LPG.
- (b) As alluded to above, oil companies are expected to accumulate sufficient fuel stocks before shutdowns and will also import products for delivery during the shutdowns in order to meet their supply requirements. The Department of Energy closely monitors the supply situation of fuel through supply management meetings with industry players and the monthly review of shutdown schedules as well as consultations thereon.