



**MINISTRY OF ENERGY
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES QUESTION 253

Mr K A Sinclair (COPE-NC) to ask the Minister of Energy:

Whether, with regard to the impending dismissal of approximately 200 highly skilled and trained personnel such as (a) scientists, (b) engineers and (c) technicians at the SA Nuclear Energy Corporation (details furnished), her department has any alternative plans to retain such scarce skill in the nuclear industry; if not, why not; if so, what (i) plans and (ii) are the further relevant details?

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Answer:

Necsa is currently involved in a section 189 of the Labour Relations Act consultation process with the Unions to explore all viable alternatives to retrenchment.

As a point of departure, Necsa Management have made a commitment to the Unions that the retention of critical skills will be a priority should a retrenchment process be inevitable.

The Department is currently busy with the Department of Science and Technology on the skills strategy for the nuclear programme. It will investigate possible plans for retention of skills critical to the nuclear industry based on the timeframes of the nuclear programme in order to balance risks of excess skills and skills shortages.