



MINISTRY OF ENERGY
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Memorandum from the Parliamentary Office

National Assembly Question : 1589

Mr J A Esterhuizen (IFP) to ask the Minister of Energy:

Whether she has implemented any measures to curb and constrain non-technical or energy losses from municipalities in the light of the 28.2% of power purchases in the City of Johannesburg are being lost through meter tampering and theft; if not, why not; if so, what steps are being taken to prevent such losses given our current shortage of energy supply? NW1796E

Reply

Yes, the Minister participated in the process with the Minister of Police, which led to the amendments to the Second Hand Goods Act (Act 6 of 2009). This Act controls the sale of copper from electrical cables.

The legislation requires all scrap metal dealers engaging in recycling of any controlled metals to be registered as a recycler, in addition to being registered as a second hand goods dealer.

Included in the amendments is the compulsory provision for scrap metal dealers to request a copy of seller's ID and proof of address and an indication of where the scrap was found before they purchase scrap metal.

In addition, we are in the process of introducing provisions in the Electricity Regulation Act relating to the theft of electricity which will make the punishment of copper theft more stringent.

These measures are meant to reduce the non-technical losses associated with electricity distribution networks