



MINISTRY OF ENERGY  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**Memorandum from the Parliamentary Office**

National Assembly : 414 (NO3751E)

**Mr M M Dlamini (EFF) to ask the Minister of Energy:**

Whether she has considered a conflict of interest that may arise in respect of the Memorandum on Co-operation in Training Personnel for the South African Nuclear Power Industry with Rosatom when the outcome of the nuclear procurement negotiations determines a service provider for the nuclear build programme other than Rosatom?

NO3751E

**Reply:**

As part of preparation for the rollout of the programme South Africa has signed Intergovernmental Agreements with several nuclear vendor countries. To date Intergovernmental Agreements with China, France, USA, South Korea and Russia. Negotiations are advance stage with Canada and Japan to conclude the Intergovernmental Agreements. The South African nuclear cooperation with any of the vendor countries includes an area of Skills Development and Training. As part of the ramping out for readiness for the Nuclear New Build Programme, the national skills development activities have started as follows:

**China:** 50 trainees from the Government, entities and industry have been sent to China for Phase 1 nuclear training in April 2015. These have recently completed Phase 1 of nuclear training. Plans are underway to send an additional 250 trainees to China this year.

Additionally, a Memorandum of Agreement on Skills Development was entered into between NECSA and State Nuclear Power Technology Cooperation of China.

**Russian:** has offered 10 new Scholarships for Master's Degree in Nuclear Technology. In addition to this, a Memorandum of Understanding Agreement has been concluded covering the training and development of 200 South African candidates at Russian universities and educational organizations.

**South Korea:** has an existing programme to train South African students for Master's Degree in Nuclear Engineering. So far 3 students graduated in 2013 and 2015 respectively.

**France:** has put in place 14 bursaries for young people coming from previously disadvantaged groups. Through this four-year engineering program in different universities, these young professionals will acquire the skills and expertise to support the South-African governmental effort in preparation of the New Nuclear Build Program (NNBP). In addition, South-African engineers already engaged in nuclear activities will follow job training in France, equivalent to a total of 400 months. Necsa has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Electricity De France on Skills Development.

The negotiations on Nuclear Skills Development with the French government are at an advance stage that could see an establishment of a Nuclear Campus in South Africa.

It is important to note that the procurement process has not started. South Africa will start the actual procurement in the second quarter of this financial year and select a Strategic Partner or Strategic Partners by end of 2015.

The procurement process will be fair open, transparent, cost competitive and in line with countries legislation and policies.

The signing of Memorandum of Cooperation in Training of Personnel with any of the vendor countries (including Rosatom for the Russian Federation) is not linked to procurement process. Any successful Strategic Partner or Strategic Partners will be selected on the basis of having met the South African procurement process criteria.