



MINISTRY OF ENERGY
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

PRIVATE BAG x 96, PRETORIA, 0001, Tel (012) 406 7658

PRIVATE BAG x 9111, CAPE TOWN, 8000 (021) 469 6412, Fax (021) 465 5980

Enquiries: Malusi.ndlovu@energy.gov.za

★25. Mr G Mackay (DA) to ask the Minister of Energy:

Which specific measures, if any, will she formally commit to in order to ensure that the Government's Nuclear New Build Programme is both (a) affordable and (b) transparent?

NO474E

Reply:

(a) It is a well-known fact that although the deployment of nuclear power plants require high capital costs at inception, it has one of the lowest operating costs due to cheaper fuel, therefore it is able to effectively compete with other energy sources forming part of the energy mix. Below are key advantages for implementing nuclear power:

- (i) It has a higher availability, over 80% of the time and reliability (throughout the day).
- (ii) It has a longer operational lifecycle (from 60-80 years for the modern plants),
- (iii) It plays an important role in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and since South Africa is a water scarce country,

It will be clear once we have tested the market what the exact cost are and hence affordability for South Africa, but we have learned through publicly available information that nuclear power plants have been built elsewhere in the world at an affordable price, especially in the eastern countries.

(b) Working with National Treasury, the Department of Energy intends to follow an open, equitable, fair, cost-effective and transparent procurement process. The Department of Energy is in the process of finalizing its long term communication strategy to

engage the public on all the Nuclear New Build Programme aspects to demystify nuclear energy to ensure transparency.