



**MINISTRY OF ENERGY**  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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**Memorandum from the Parliamentary Office**

**260. Mr E R Makue (Gauteng: ANC) to ask the Minister of Energy:**

- 1) When will the power from the Great Inga Water Project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo benefit the people of South Africa;
- 2) Whether there are any reasons or causes for the delays; if not, why has it taken so many years for this project to deliver electricity to South Africa; if so, what are the relevant details? CO524E

**Reply**

- 1) It should be noted that South Africa is a potential buyer of the electricity from the proposed Inga Power Plant and not a constructor. The process of appointing the developer(s) of the project and the supporting infrastructure rests with the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and South Africa has limited influence over the process in terms of the relevant Treaty. At this point, the DRC has not yet finalised the appointment of the Preferred Developer(s). The offtake agreements can only be finalised with the Preferred Developer(s) including the work around the transmission lines. It will be difficult for the Department to commit to specific date for commercial operation of the plant given it does not have control over the process and the dates as indicated by the DRC have moved many times.

With regards to the transmission lines, the Minister has already authorised the engagement with the transit countries with regards to the building of the transmission line from the DRC to South Africa. The Department has developed an MOU with all the transit countries which takes into account the commercial terms and the routing of the line. The Department with assistance from the SADC Secretariat, is currently

negotiating with DRC, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Botswana to facilitate the development and preparation of project documents to procure a developer to design, develop, operate and maintain a high voltage direct current (HVDC) Transmission scheme that will deliver the 2 500 MW from the Project to South Africa.

- 2) The DRC has not yet appointed the Preferred Developer(s) to initiate engagement around the offtake agreements. It will be difficult for the department to speculate about procurement issues of the DRC as we are not involved with the process of appointing the Preferred Developer(s) which is not yet finalised and this has consequential impacts on the timelines for the project.