

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

QUESTION 276

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

276. Mr T D Harris (DA-WC) to ask the Minister of Energy:

Whether, with reference to the comments by the Deputy President at the Oil and Gas Indaba in Bloemfontein on 10 August 2010, the Government has any plans to enhance the quality of fuel to South African consumers in order to reduce the level of harmful vehicle emissions; if not, why not; if so, what (a) are the relevant steps of this plan and (b) is the timeframe for its implementation? **CW355E**

Response:

- a) Government is planning to enhance the quality of fuels by tightening fuel specifications and standards in response to the health and environmental challenges as well as new developments in vehicle engine technology. As alluded to in my Budget Vote Speech and the Department's Strategic Plan we are on course with the development of a Road Map that will spell out the envisaged future specifications and standards. Among key stakeholders already consulted are the South African Petroleum Industry Association (SAPIA) and the National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of South Africa (NAAMSA).
- b) The said Road Map will soon (within two months, October 2010) be published in the Government Gazette for public comment. The exact details of the technical specifications proposed are being deliberated upon by the involved technical teams from Government and the industry. The Road Map envisages a phased approach, which will culminate in a cut-off period for a total change. This will also take into account the time that will be needed to make the requisite changes to manufacturing units to produce fuels that are in compliance with what would be the new specifications and standards.