

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION 940

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

940. Mr P F Smith (IFP) to ask the Minister of Energy:

- (1) In respect of the commitment made by the Government in its 2003 White Paper on Renewable Energy to source 10 000 GWh electricity from renewable sources within 10 years, what had been achieved (a) by 2008 and (b) at the latest specified date for which information is available;
- (2) Whether the Government will achieve its objective on time; if not, why not?

NW1085E

Reply

- (1) Since we reported at the Renewable Energy Summit in March 2009 less than 10% was achieved during 2008/09. In 2009/10, few projects were commissioned namely Bethlehem Hydro Project and the eThekweni landfill gas to electricity projects which added 10MW to the system but the total contribution to the 2013 target remains below 10%.
- (2) Yes, based on the measures that have been put in place, Government expects to meet the 2013 target. The measures that have been put in place include:
 - o New Generation Capacity Regulations promulgated in 2009 which will enable the procurement of power from Independent Power Producers including those using renewable energy sources. These regulations define the institutional arrangement within which this procurement must be controlled. The afore-mentioned regulations are expected to expedite the procurement process of the IPP's as well as ensure that all future electricity plans are streamlined to correspond with the country's position on primary energy mix in general; clean energy power production is also prioritized.
 - o It is also anticipated that, through the Renewable Energy Feed-in Tariffs (Phase 1 & 2) there will be an increased uptake of the renewable energy projects.
 - o The Department also made provision for RE contribution to the energy mix for 2013 period through the Integrated Resource Plan 1 wherein the funding associated with this plan was also approved by the National Energy Regulator of SA (NERSA).
 - o Lastly, the department is in the process of establishing an Independent System and Market Operator which will be responsible for buying power produced by Independent Power Producers including RE generators qualifying under the REFIT procurement programme.