Question 70

Mr L B Labuschagne (DA) to ask the Minister of Trade and Industry:

(1) Whether a certain plant development (Alcan Coega Aluminum) in Coega has been or will be affected by the current energy crisis; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(2) Whether the energy crisis will affect the development of the Coega industrial development zone; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

Response:

(1) The serious shortage of electricity will affect all industries, including the Alcan Coega Aluminum plant development. This could entail the project adjusting the energy requirements for its two phases. In addition, alternative energy conservation options will be explored, as there are various alternatives that an energy project of this nature can utilize to conserve its energy intensive requirements.

(2) The electricity shortage will have an impact on the development of the Coega Industrial Development Zone in the short to medium term. ESKOM is however in the process of providing a peak generation facility which will mitigate the situation. In the meantime, the Coega Development Corporation is working with both national and local government on proposals to conserve power.