



# New environmental minister vows to solve Mpumalanga air pollution problem

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Environmental activists have taken the government to court over its alleged poor progress in cleaning up air pollution in Mpumalanga.

Vukani Environmental Justice Movement in Action and Groundwork have launched a case to demand that the government clean-up the air in the polluted area.

To address the air pollution in Mpumalanga, Bongani Bingwa chats to Environmental, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Barbara Creecy.

There are problems with regards to the quality of air in Mpumalanga. I was myself working in that area over the past four months of the election campaign, and I did experience for myself that there is indeed a problem there. The issue is that our country is dependant on coal for our power supply and our power stations are working extremely hard to keep the lights on.

— *Barbara Creecy, Minister - Environmental, Forestry and Fisheries*

She says the consequences are that one would find routine maintenance not being done as it should be, thus increasing the problem.

The point that I made when we were taken to court, is that I am 14 days in this office, I really would have wanted an opportunity to apply my mind to this situation and look at the delicate balancing act between keeping the lights on and not creating a significant public health threat.

— *Barbara Creecy, Minister - Environmental, Forestry and Fisheries*

She says she will be applying her mind in order to try and rectify the pollution problem.

**Listen below to the full interview:**

<http://www.702.co.za/articles/351680/new-environmental-minister-vows-to-solve-mpumalanga-air-pollution-problem>