



WORK IN PROGRESS . . . Deputy President Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka (right) with Eastern Cape Premier Nosimo Balindlela during her visit to the 2010 World Cup stadium in North End, Port Elizabeth, yesterday.
Picture: EUGENE COETZEE

Residents to buy braai permits . . . or face big fines

Innovative law aims to reduce carbon emissions, cut down on global warming

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HERALD REPORTER

IN a world first in the global fight to reduce carbon emissions, South Africa may soon begin regulating domestic braai fires.

Legislation that will require all urban households to obtain a permit before they light a charcoal or wood braai on their properties – and which stipulates heavy penalties for those who do not – has already been drafted.

The Carbon Reduction and Atmospheric Protection Bill makes provision for braai enthusiasts to purchase an R80 permit that is valid for three months and good for an unlimited number of braai parties.

A one-off permit will also be available for R10 for those unwilling to fork out R80. However, applicants for this kind of permit will have to stipulate a specific date on which they wish to braai and the permit will not be transferable. Permits will be sold

at post offices. The bill will be enforced by the department of environmental affairs and tourism's environmental management inspectors (the Green Scorpions).

The department has warned that fines of up to R500 for braaing without a permit will be issued "without exception" once a three-month grace period following enactment of the bill has expired. Commercial entities such as taverns and restaurants that braai are also tar-

geted by the new law. The bill has been circulated for comment among environmental groups, but has not yet been published officially for public comment. A copy was leaked to the media yesterday by one of these groups, but its existence has now been confirmed by the department.

A new study conducted by NGO Earthfire indicates that braai fires account for nearly 10 per cent of the 395 million tons of carbon dioxide

REPORT CONTINUES: P2

ed to take on post of ICC chief executive