water affairs
Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Reference: S.4/2/1

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1317 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mr N J J van R Koornhof (Cope); is attached for your consideration.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 17/5/10

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/~~AMENDED~~

MS B P SONJICA, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DATE: 22/05/2010

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1317

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 16 APRIL 2010 (INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 11)

1317 Mr N J J van R Koornhof (Cope) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

(1) How many cubic meters of water will be prevented from flowing into the Olifants River when the De Hoop Dam has been completed;

(2) whether it will have an impact on the perennial status of the Olifants River; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? NW1547E

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REPLY:

(1) The storage capacity of De Hoop Dam is about two and a half times the mean annual runoff (MAR) of the Steelpoort River at the Dam site. The amount of water that will be prevented from flowing into the Olifants River will on average be about 72 million m^3 per annum (which will be used for urban and rural domestic consumption and for industrial and mining consumption) and the water that evaporates from the surface of the lake. The large floods will still pass over the spillway of the Dam and provision has been made for the release of the smaller floods through the Dam outlet pipes. The dam will however not overflow every year.

(2) No, the Dam will not have an impact on the perennial status of the Olifants River. The Dam has been designed to release the volumes of water needed to meet the Reserve at the Ecological Water Requirement (EWR) site directly downstream of the Dam. It will deliver its share of the Ecological Water Requirement for the Olifants River in proportion to the catchment it regulates.

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