

**water affairs**

Department:  
Water Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

2010-09-26


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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1978 FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mrs H N Ndude (Cope); is attached for your consideration.

  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)  
DATE: 26/8/10

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

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

DATE: 27/08/2010

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1978

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 30 JULY 2010  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 18)

**1978. Mrs H N Ndude (Cope) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:**

Whether her department has put measures in place to deal with the problem of highly acidic mine water rising to the surface in Johannesburg and other cities on the Reef; if not, why not; if so, what measures? NW2367E

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**REPLY:**

Yes, my Department has engaged the relevant mines in order to seek for short, medium and long term solutions. Although the medium and long term solutions have not been finalised, the plans for the short term (interim) solution to prevent the mine water rising above a level that would be detrimental to the environment, as well as to secure gold reserves are being considered for implementation. It is envisaged that a pump station will be built and that an existing treatment plant will be refurbished to treat the mine water to an acceptable standard for discharge into the Klip River, as had been done before mining operations ceased in the area in October 2008.

Following recent statements by Cabinet, I was mandated to urgently convene a special task team to develop a clear and coordinated strategy to deal with the matter, an Inter Ministerial Committee comprising the Ministers of Finance, Mineral Resources, Science and Technology, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and the Minister in the Presidency: National Planning Commission, is in the process of being established.

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