



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

2010 -08- 13

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 2081 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mrs S V Kalyan (DA); is attached for your consideration.


DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 18/8/10


DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED


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

DATE: 14. 08. 2010

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 2081

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 06 AUGUST 2010
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 19)

2081. Mrs S V Kalyan (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) What is the nature of the damage that has been done to the Krugersdorp Nature Reserve following the (a) decant of acid mine drainage from the neighbouring property of Rand Uranium and (b) subsequent efforts to treat the decanting acid mine drainage with lime;
- (2) whether the mines that have liability for the acid mine drainage in the Western Basin will be compelled to rehabilitate the affected areas in the said reserve; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether any assistance is being provided to the said reserve to ensure that the animals in its care have sustained access to clean water; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

- (1)(a) The acid mine drainage has affected the watercourse within the Krugersdorp Nature Reserve by causing a decrease in the pH and an increase in the sulphate level. This has rendered the environment inhabitable to fish and amphibians. During inspections it is observed that birds and mammals are making use of the Dam within the reserve.
- (1)(b) Subsequent efforts to treat the decanting acid mine drainage with lime resulted in significant improvement in the water quality.
- (2) Yes, once the decanting acid mine water in the Western Basin has been brought under control, my Department will according to Section 20 of the National Water Act, 1998 direct the existing mining companies to formulate a remediation plan for the watercourse in the Reserve.
- (3) Yes, following a request from my Department, the mines installed a borehole and have constructed watering ponds for wildlife watering in the reserve.

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