



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 2087 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mr G R Morgan (DA); is attached for your consideration.


DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 15/8/10

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED


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

DATE: 2010/08/14

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 2087

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

2087. Mr G R Morgan (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) (a) Which municipalities in KwaZulu-Natal currently have notices or directives in terms of section 19(3) of the National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998, issued against them, (b) when was the notice or directive issued, (c) why was the notice or directive issued and (d) what was the response from the municipality as at the latest specified date for which information is available;
- (2) whether any of these municipalities have had criminal charges brought against them for transgressions in terms of the National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

- (1)(a) Seven (7) notices and directives have been issued to four (4) municipalities as reflected in **Annexure A** attached.
- (1)(b) The notices and directives were issued between April and July 2010. Refer to **Annexure A** attached hereto for the details.
- (1)(c) Refer to **Annexure A** attached hereto for the reasons for issuing the notices or directives.
- (1)(d) Refer **Annexure A** attached hereto for the details of the responses from the affected municipalities.
- (2) No, none of the municipalities have had criminal charges brought against them for transgressions in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No 36 of 1998). As part of Compliance Enforcement Protocol, public institutions are notified of their non compliance and supported to improve processes to achieve compliance. The KwaZulu-Natal provincial Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs is closely involved in implementing turn around strategies at municipalities to address institutional shortcomings.

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ANNEXURE A

DETAILS OF NOTICES/ DIRECTIVES ISSUED TO KWAZULU-NATAL MUNICIPALITIES AND RESPONSES

No	(1)(a) Municipality issued with a notice/ directive	(1)(b) Date on which notice issued	(1)(c) Reasons for issuing notice	(1)(d) Recent responses from the municipality
1	Sisonke District Municipality (DM) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underberg Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW) 	23 April 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WWTW not operating thus resulting in sewage being discharged into the environment without adequate treatment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sisonke DM has appointed consultants to assist in the optimisation of the operations of a recent upgrade to the WWTW.
2	Ugu District Municipality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mbango WWTW 	19 May 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor quality of the effluent due to non-functional scum boxes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses were received on 28 May and 30 June 2010 indicating that specialist operators have been appointed to assist optimise the operation of the plant and rectify the situation. • Recent samples of the final effluent have shown improvement.
3	Ugu District Municipality	19 May 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recurring problem of overflowing pump station. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No response received for the Notice issued. • Directive to be issued.
4	Ilembe District Municipality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stanger WWTW 	3 May 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor state of the WWTW and quality of the effluent. • Instruction to stop accepting leachate for treatment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leachate is now being treated at alternative treatment facility. • Consultants have conducted evaluation on the refurbishment work required at the WWTW.
5	Ilembe District Municipality	23 July 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pump station failure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pumps repaired.
6	Ilembe District Municipality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sundumbili WWTW 	7 July 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor quality of the effluent. • WWTW needs to be refurbished. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan of action submitted to address the issues.
7	Umkanyakude District Municipality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All WWTWs 	21 July 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor state of infrastructure and WWTW 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management consultants appointed to assist with operation of the WWTW.