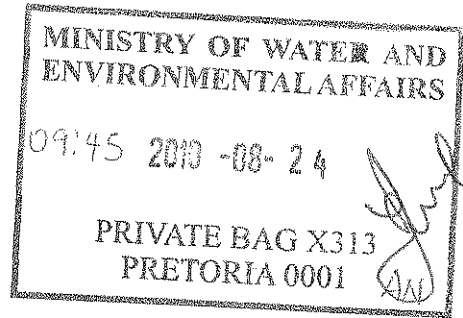




water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 2136 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:

24/8/10


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 2136

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 13 AUGUST 2010
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 20)

2136. Mrs S V Kalyan (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) (a) What are the current efforts by the Hartebeespoortdam remediation programme to raise money other than that received from the Treasury and (b) what is the total amount of money raised to date;
- (2) whether staff of her department or consultants to the programme raised money through civil society organisations; if so, what are the relevant details? NW2576E

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REPLY:

- (1)(a) The Hartbeespoort Dam Remediation Programme (Harties Metsi a me) has developed a strategy to mobilise support from the Corporate and Private fraternity, inclusive of the estates around the dam. The rationale behind the strategy was to pursue and realise additional sources of support to enable fast tracking of projects and activities into the implementation phase. Support and sponsorship could include the performing of activities aligned with the remediation programme, funding, material or equipment. Important in this process was to:
- unlocking Social and Economic commitments;
 - identify and facilitate the minimum support required to enable the sustainable implementation of the remediation programme in the absence of a Resource management Plan (RMP);
 - identify priority projects that could enhance the remediation programme and package a feasible business opportunity around each;
 - identify the external support that may be interested to fund or co-fund these projects and activities;
 - establish a legal structure and institution that could manage and secure the flow of external funding, and
 - finally to monitor, manage and report on process flow and expenditures for each opportunity separately.

The focus on potential sponsors evolved around the following:

Contributions in kind – The Implementing Agent (Rand Water) became involved in the Harties Metsi a me in 2006. Rand Water is managing the programme without charging my Department's Implementing Agent fees as per the contract. In addition to this, a full time Project Manager with other administrative and management support were also provided. The total contribution over this period of four years adds up to approximately R8.1 m.

Residents and estate owners around the dam – A very concerted effort was put in place to mobilise support from residents and home owners around the dam. An initial antagonistic view from these stakeholders due to the poor state of the water in the dam was turned into a positive and co-operative spirit.

The result of the survey revealed that an amount in excess of R2,0 million was spent in 2008 collectively by residents around the dam to supplement the efforts of the Harties Metsi a me team. In 2009 to February 2010, stakeholders became actively involved in shoreline remediation, debris and hyacinth removal in front of estates with an estimated contribution of R 3,2 million. Their support programme will include the establishment of floating wetlands, shoreline restoration and promotion of wetlands, waste minimisation and improvement of storm water management on properties.

Potential Corporate Sponsors – The following corporate sponsors who through their business ventures reinforced the aims of the Harties Metsi a me programme:

- **The Oppenheimer Foundation** – The Oppenheimer Foundation has shown interest to sponsor projects on the Programme. The initial communication process was stalled by the current economic climate in South Africa and it will be revisited upon recovery of the climate.
- **The local Mining sector**– There is synergy in certain Programme activities with the mines. A sponsor for a pilot project has been received from Elands Mine for possible use of organic enriched sediments (jelly layer) at the dam wall zone for rehabilitation of tailings dams and disturbed areas. eg Elands Mine has signed an agreement to the tune R94 500 of with Rand Water.
- **Financial Sector** – The financial sector such as Nedbank has been approached to solicit their interest in sponsoring certain activities through their eco-friendly banking approach.
- **Business Sector** - Coca Cola was also earmarked as potential sponsor.
- **Potential and existing International Sponsors** – The underlisted international donors that are highly involved with water projects in Africa have been approached. Namely,
 - ❖ **Finnish Government** – specialist guidance and support as well as contributions towards the establishment and equipping of the Communication Centre.
 - ❖ **Belgium and UNESCO** – knowledge transfer program including the development of information materials and equipment at the Communication Centre.
 - ❖ **Infrastructure Consortium for Africa (ICA)** for funding of infrastructure development projects.

(1)(b) The total estimated funding / support to date from sponsors mentioned above is approximately R19,85m. The figure was compounded as follows:

- Support in kind is estimated at R8.1m+
- Contributions from residents around the dam is estimated at R5,2m for the last 2 financial years.
- Corporate support - amount transfer to Rand Water R0,35m
- International Donors- R6,2m donated at Treasury

All indications are that a positive swing in the current economic climate will certainly release more support from the Corporate and Private Sector towards the Programme.

(2) No staff of my Department or consultants to the programme raised money through civil society organisations. This is because the Civil Society Organisations in the Region of North West called the Hartbeespoort Dam Water Action Group (HWAG) has been involved in the programme since inception.