



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 2184 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

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


DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 15/10/10

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED


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

DATE: 15/10/2010

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 2184

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 20 AUGUST 2010
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 23)

2184. Mrs A T Lovemore (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether, with reference to sections 12 to 17 of the Water Services Act, Act 108 of 1997, all water service authorities have compiled and submitted water services development plans since the proclamation of the Act on 19 December 1997; if not, (a) which water services authorities have not submitted such plans and (b) what action is being or has been taken to ensure compliance with the relevant sections of the Act; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether, with reference to section 18 of the said Act, all water service authorities report annually on the implementation of the relevant water services development plan; if not, (a) which water service authorities do not comply with the annual reporting requirement and (b) what action is being or has been taken to ensure compliance with the relevant sections of the Act; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether (a) all water services development plans submitted to her department are assessed for feasibility in line with national and regional water demand and supply scenarios and (b) water service authorities are engaged with regard to possible changes required in plans to conform to national and regional water supply and demand scenarios; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? NW2690E

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REPLY:

- (1) With the proclamation of the Water Services Act in 1997, there were 843 Local Government Structures in South Africa. Based on the type of municipal structures and to facilitate effective facilitation of Water Services Development Plans, the then Department of Water Affairs and Forestry targeted 640 municipal authorities to develop Water Services Development Plans. Based on extensive and dedicated support, more than 400 actively participated and submitted draft reports. The balance of municipalities was excluded due to uncertainty of their Water Services functions. In 2001 a new municipal system was created changing the then 843 municipalities to 284 municipalities with new boundaries and compositions. Due to new boundary changes and amalgamations, the whole process had to be restarted. It must also be noted that at that point in time only the Metros and District Municipalities were formally regarded as Water Services Authorities. During the period 2001 – 2003 all the then Water Services Authorities submitted draft reports. In 2003 the Water Services Authorities function were finalized, authorizing the Water Services Authorities functions to 169 Municipalities. This required major rework of all Water Services Development Plans, as well as building new institutional capacity and ownership. Over this period until now, all these Water Services Authorities have submitted Water Services Development Plans, ranging from draft to those adopted by Council.

- (1)(a) Yes, over this period all Water Services Authorities have submitted plans.
- (1)(b) Assessment of these plans revealed that not all aspects have been properly addressed, some of the plans have not been maintained and kept up to date, and in some cases challenges were experienced in terms of quality and completeness of specific aspects in the plans. To address this, a special national support programme with associated guidelines is in place focusing on selected municipalities. In the year 2009/10 more than 40 Water Services Authorities have been supported and another 40 are targeted for this year 2010/11. Special focus is also given to priority areas such as addressing the Basic Services Targets, Municipal Turn Around Strategy, Waste Water Management, Water Use Efficiency, Infrastructure Asset Management, and alignment with the Integrated Development Plans. A special tracking system is also in place to monitor the submissions and Water Services Authorities are continuously encouraged to improve and submit their plans.
- (2) In general the majority of Water Services Authorities (WSA) do not submit reports annually as required by the Act. In selected areas such as the Western Cape, committed Water Services Authorities do submit reports.
- (2)(a) Currently there are no formal structured annual reporting procedures in place in terms of Section 18. However a system has been developed and will be rolled in 2011 which will focus on the commitments and outputs of the IDP's and WSDP's. As part of our regulatory responsibility, a Regulatory Performance Management System (RPMS) is in place and functional which tracks whether WSA's are reporting as well as tracking specific areas of performance. Over above this, thematic specific monitoring and reporting systems have been developed and are functional, such as: Drinking Water Quality reports, Financial Performance, Municipal Self Assessment of services quality, Basic Services delivery and Waster Water Management.
- (2)(b) This is a major concern for the Department, and various actions are undertaken to address this. Awareness campaigns are continuously run to obtain ownership, commitment and compliance. A formal reporting framework and process is under development and roll-out to facilitate effective reporting is scheduled for 2011. A formal regulatory performance management system (RPMS) has also been developed and is fully implemented. These systems will monitor inter alia planning compliance, as part of the overall regulatory function of the Department.
- (3)(a) The Water Services Development Plan framework and guidelines makes pertinent provision for effective Water Resource Planning and there are dedicated and focused chapters for Water Use Planning as well as Water Use Efficiency Management. As part of the All-Town and Regional reconciliation studies, Water Services Development Plans are used and assessed to facilitate such reconciliation and development planning.
- (3)(b) In conducting these reconciliation studies, relevant Water Services Authorities are invited to engage in the relevant Planning Forums and Committees. With regards to specific Water Resources Development Planning and Feasibility Studies, extensive effort is going into involving all municipalities and those with water services responsibilities (Water Services Authorities) in detail planning, ownership and implementation thereof. All municipalities must develop integrated development plans (IDP's) and must have associated development plans. Special emphasis is also placed on ensuring that the outcomes and implications of water planning studies and strategies are reflected in the relevant Water Services Development Plans. In general, the Water Resource Management Aspects is not well reflected and addressed in the Water Services Development Plans.