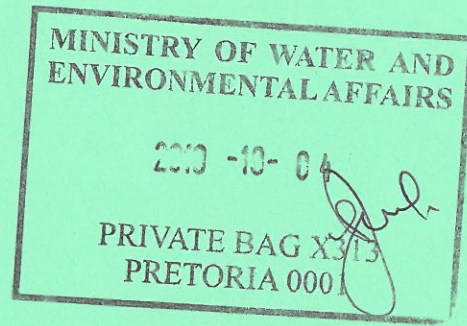




## water affairs

Department:  
Water Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Enquiries: Dr C Marais  
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Reference: 6/2/2/6

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 2659 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mr M J Ellis (DA); is attached for your consideration.

  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 4/10/10

  
DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

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

DATE: 04/10/2010

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO 2659**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 17 SEPTEMBER 2010**  
**(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 29)**

**2659. Mr M J Ellis (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:**

- (1) With reference to her reply to question 2062 on 30 August 2010, (a) why is the total amount allocated to projects in the provinces and SA National Parks (SANParks) (details furnished) less than half of the budget for the 2010-11 financial year and (b) how will the remainder of the allocated budget for the financial year be spent;
- (2) whether any projects administered by the Working for Water programme are subject to a public tender process; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) how are the contractors identified for projects that are not governed by a public tender process;
- (4) whether the Working for Water programme will accept unsolicited (a) suggestions on areas that may benefit from the project to remove alien invasive species and (b) bids from businesses looking to be the implementing agents of projects; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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**REPLY**

- (1)(a) The reason why the total amount allocated to projects in the provinces and South African National Parks (SANParks) is less than half of the budget for the 2010/11 financial year is because the project budgets reported only reflects the operational management costs of each project. This includes wages to beneficiaries, transport, equipment, protective clothing and herbicide.
- (1)(b) The remainder of the budget will be utilised as follows:
  - R205 million goes towards regional management costs including salaries, and associated administrative costs.
  - R193 million is administered through the Working for Water national office aimed at strategic national initiatives such as early detection and rapid response of emerging invasive species, value added industries aimed at utilising cleared biomass, clearing in high altitude areas, rehabilitation of cleared areas, utilisation of biological control, clearing of waterweeds, and research partnerships with organisations such as South African National Biodiversity Institute, Agriculture Research Council, Water Research Commission and Universities.
- (2) A closed tendering process is administered with emerging contractors whilst any other professional services engaged to support management is governed by public tender process in terms of the departmental procurement procedures and policy.
- (3) The appointment of emerging contractors in undertaking the clearing work is done in line with the Ministerial Determination governing the Expanded Public Works Programmes and the Code of Good Practice. Essentially, contractors are selected in consultation with Project Advisory Committees comprising of representatives from members of the local community, governing structure, local offices of the participating Government Departments. These contractors are then allowed to quote on three negotiated contracts up to a maximum of R30 000 for labour, as part of the training component to allow them to bid on larger contracts in future up to a value of R200 000. This mechanism is provided through exemption clauses in my Departmental procurement delegation, 19.1 to 19.3 in order to support the development of emerging contracting enterprises.

- (4)(a) Yes, partnerships are always welcomed. However, it should be noted that the programmes regional clearing plans looks at a 5 year time horizon in terms of allocating resources for clearing, whilst ongoing assessments re-prioritise areas where invasive plant clearing will deliver optimal benefits. Any unsolicited suggestion will have to tie in with the planning horizons to ensure effective coordination and implementation.
- (4)(b) No, in terms of my Departmental regulations, only listed Implementing Agents whose accounting practices complies with the Public Finance Management Act may be utilised.

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