



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Enquiries: P D Pyke
Telephone: 012-336-8192
Reference: 7/3/1/14

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES: QUESTION NO 49 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Hon K A Sinclair (COPE-Northern Cape), is attached for your consideration.


DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 


DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED


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

DATE: 

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 49

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 26 FEBRUARY 2010
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 2)

49. Mr K A Sinclair (COPE-NC) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

Whether her department has held any discussions with the Namibian authorities regarding the construction of a dam on the Orange River between South Africa and Namibia; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

CW53E

---00000---

REPLY:

Yes, My Department is currently in discussions with Namibia over improving the yield of the Orange River. The construction of a dam in the lower Orange River near Vioolsdrift has been identified in joint planning studies conducted with Namibia as being a viable alternative to increase the available water yield from the Orange River. The site lies on the common border between South Africa and Namibia and is envisaged as a joint development that would serve the projected needs of both countries.

Further Joint Feasibility Planning Studies with Namibia are required to confirm water demands, the environmental flow requirements, optimize the size of storage required, the engineering design and cost of development. Agreements will have to be concluded with Namibia on sharing costs of the study, the development costs and sharing the water resources. Bearing in mind the previously mentioned factors and the time normally required to approve and undertake international water projects, it is unlikely that the dam could be completed before 2018.

---00000---