



water affairs

Department:
Water and Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

2010 -06- 07

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES: QUESTION 236 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mr D A Worth (DA-FS) is attached for your consideration, please.


DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE:

4/6/10


DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/ AMENDED


MS B PISONJICA, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DATE:

08/06/2010

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 236

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 04 JUNE 2010
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 15)

236. Mr D A Worth (DA-FS) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether any investigation will be made with regard to water which enters the Free State river system at the Ash River outlet from the Highlands Water Scheme; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether the water is polluted by the towns along the rivers before entering the Vaal Dam system; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether any municipalities along the river system have violated the regulations with regard to sewage into the river systems as at latest date for which information is available; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what systems are in place to prevent such pollution of this water?

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REPLY:

- (1) No, at present my Department does not deem it necessary to conduct an investigation with regard to the water which enters the Ash River system. My Department is however conducting monthly water quality monitoring and the results do not indicate the presence of pollution.
- (2) None of the towns, with the exception of Bethlehem, are discharging inferior quality effluent into the Vaal River system. The Bethlehem wastewater treatment works which has capacity challenges discharges into the Liebenbergsvlei and ultimately into the Vaal River.
- (3) All the municipalities with the exception of Dihlabeng, which includes Bethlehem, are complying with acceptable effluent discharge standards. The Dihlabeng Municipality has informed my Department that they have budgeted an amount of R 8 million to upgrade the infrastructure associated with the wastewater treatment works.

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