



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

2010 -08- - 6

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES: QUESTION 247 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

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


DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 4/8/10

~~DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED~~


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

DATE: 08/08/2010

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 247

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 30 JULY 2010
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 17)

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

- (1) whether, with reference to a media report (details furnished), her department has taken any steps to prevent contaminated water from mining operations on the Tweelopiespruit from entering the Hippo Dam which affects the wildlife in the Krugersdorp Game Reserve; if not, why not; if so, what steps;
- (2) whether her department has instituted any legal action against the guilty parties; if not, why not; if so, what action? CW318E

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REPLY:

- (1) Yes, my Department has for a period of three months subsidised the two mines operating upstream of the Krugersdorp Game Reserve enabling them to maximise the pumping of Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) as well as liming the uncontrolled AMD entering the Tweelopiespruit. This action brought the acidity and heavy metals content of the water to within more tolerable levels.

The mining houses have further decreased the polluted water entering the Krugersdorp Game Reserve by diverting a portion of the AMD through an artificial wetland (passive treatment system) before it enters the Tweelopiespruit.

- (2) The two mines allegedly to be the source of pollution were issued with directives during 2009 to pump and treat the contaminated water in the Western Basin mine void, prior to discharge. The mining houses however appealed the directives in the High Court resulting in such directives being suspended and declared unenforceable. Due to the court's ruling, new directives were issued during the first quarter of 2010 to regulate the mines. Furthermore, a monitoring committee comprising of relevant departments and affected stakeholders meets on a monthly basis to monitor compliance to the directives issued.

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