



## water affairs

Department:  
Water Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

2010 -12- 07

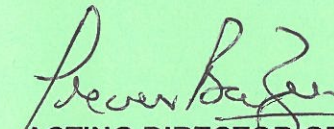
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Reference: 6/2/2/6

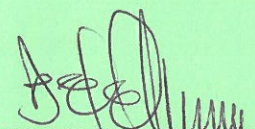
MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES: QUESTION 378 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mr K A Sinclair (COPE-NC); is attached for your consideration.

  
ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL  
DATE: 7/12/2010

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

  
MRS B E E MOLEWA, MP  
MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
DATE: 2010/12/14

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 378

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 15 OCTOBER 2010  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 28)

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

- (1) Whether it is a priority of the Government to ensure that the maintenance of infrastructure is carried out timeously and efficiently to ensure effective and efficient functioning of communities; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether she has been informed of the lack of infrastructure maintenance work on the canal infrastructure in the Boegoeberg area in the Northern Cape; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) who is responsible for such work, (b) what steps will her department take to ensure a turnaround of the current situation, (c) what amount has been allocated for the maintenance work in the 2010-11 financial year and (d) what steps is her department implementing to ensure that this situation does not continue?

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**REPLY:**

- (1) Yes, it is a priority to ensure maintenance of water infrastructure. For some infrastructure, particularly canals, the operation and maintenance functions have been transferred to Water User Associations (WUAs) (which is the case with the Boegoeberg canals).
- (2) According to Departmental inspections, the canal system in Boegoeberg is adequately maintained.
  - (2)(a) The Department transferred the operation and maintenance (O&M) functions of the Boegoeberg Government Water Scheme to the Boegoeberg Water User Association in 2003. Since the transfer the WUA is responsible for and also performing the O&M functions with its own funds, obtained through charges levied on their water users, mainly irrigators.
  - (2)(b) Officials from the Department do inspections of the canal system during the winter dry periods to evaluate the condition of the canal infrastructure and to provide guidance to the WUA with regards to maintenance needed and to ensure that required maintenance work is performed in terms of the current operations and maintenance agreement.
  - (2)(c) The O&M budget of the WUA for the 2010/11 financial year amounts to R12 784 million.
  - (2)(d) No steps are required as the canal systems, where the Department has a direct involvement, are maintained satisfactorily considering the age of the infrastructure. The Water User Association is however assessing the refurbishment needs of the canal in order to request funding in areas where refurbishment and upgrading is required.

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