

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO 753**

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**(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 13)**

**753. Mr J P I Blanchè (DA) to ask the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry:**

- (1) Whether her department has been informed of the mine sludge spillages occurring at regular intervals above surface at a certain mine in Boksburg (details furnished); if so, (a) what is the level of pollution into the Welsch's Spruit at Elsburg;
- (2) whether any action has been taken by her department against the mine; if not, why not; if so, what action?

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**REPLY:**

- (1) No, the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry has not been informed of the mine sludge spillages at the ERPM mine in Boksburg. The Welsch Spruit at Elsburg is unknown to my Department and the only water resources in the proximity of the ERPM mine that may be impacted upon by any spillages from the mine are three dams which all flow into the Elsburg Spruit. The last reported spillage occurred in February 2008 and was not near any water resource.
- (1)(a) Falls away.
- (2) No action was taken by my Department because of no evidence of any recent spillages. My Department conducts routine monitoring on two sites in the ERPM mining area and will ensure, by means of regular site visits to the mine, that all spillages are reported timeously.