



water affairs

Department:
Water and Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AFFAIRS
AND FORESTRY
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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 172 FOR ORAL REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mr G R Morgan (DA), is attached for your consideration, please.


DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 27.10.09

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED


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

DATE: 29/10/2009

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR ORAL REPLY

QUESTION NO 172

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 13 OCTOBER 2009
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 21)

★172. Mr G R Morgan (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

(1)(a) What is the amount of surface water available each year and (b) what percentage of this surface water has been allocated to users;

(2) whether her department has found that the methods that have been used to (a) measure surface water and (b) allocate available surface water have resulted in an allocation that exceeds available water; if so, (i) how will the situation be rectified and (ii) on what are the findings based?

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REPLY:

(1)(a) Water availability figures for the year 2000 were published in the first version of the National Water Resource Strategy (NWRS) in September 2004. The total reliable yield for the country was estimated at 13 227 million cubic meters per annum. The information in the NWRS is still the best available for the overall picture in the country.

(1)(b) The total requirement for the year 2000 was estimated in the NWRS at 97% of available water. Since then a process of registration, validation and verification commenced to establish the actual lawful authorizations of all Water Users

(2)(a) Yes, Internationally accepted best methodologies and practices are used to assess water availability and water use in order to identify likely shortages and plan solutions. These methodologies and practices are continuously improved and updated with new technologies and data to maximize confidence in the basis for managing the water resources of the country.

(2)(b) The NWRS also shows that in some Water Management Areas (WMAS) the use is higher than the available water. The implication of this is that the Reserve is not fully supplied and users are receiving water at lower assurances than ideal. The principles to deal with these issues are spelled out in the NWRS. If the resource can not be developed further the process of compulsory licensing could be used to reduce allocations.

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