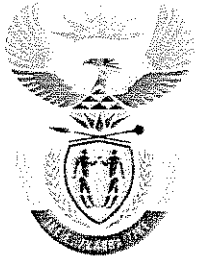


MINISTRY OF WATER AFFAIRS
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water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Enquiries: M. Gwala
Telephone: 012-336-8768
Reference: 2/1/5/1

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 2222 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mrs A T Lovemore (DA) is attached for your consideration, please.


DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 26.11.09


DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED


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

DATE: 01.12.2009

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 2222

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 13 NOVEMBER 2009
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 28)

2222 Mrs A T Lovemore (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether a revised version of the National Water Resource Strategy will be published in January 2010; if not, (a) why not and (b) when will it be published; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) Whether a process of stakeholder consultation will be part of the development of the revised strategy; if not, why not; if so, when will the consultation process commence;
- (3) (a) which government departments will be involved in the development of the revised strategy and (b) what is the (i) rationale for and (ii) detail of the involvement of each department?

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REPLY:

- (1)(a) No, a revised version of the National Water Resource Strategy (NWRS) will not be published in January 2010. However, Instead My Department has been consulting on the Water for Growth and Development framework (WfGD), which sets the foundation for revising the NWRS. The WfGD framework is aimed at ensuring the centrality of water in all planning activities in the country.
- (1)(b) The 2nd edition of the NWRS will be ready for Gazetting by January 2011.
- (2) Yes, stakeholder consultation will form part of the revision of the NWRS. The process will commence in 2010, after the consultations on WfGD have been concluded.
- (3)(a) The National Water Act (NWA), Act No.36 of 1998 does not specify the involvement of any particular government departments or organisations. However, subsection 1(b) of the NWA states that, "if any, interested person with appropriate contents to bring in the establishment of the NWRS (which I consider to be appropriate)", I must take notice and give attention to those interested people. In line with Intergovernmental Relations framework Act No. 13 of 2005, the following government departments will be consulted: Department of Mineral Resources, National Planning Commission, Department of Energy, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry and Department of Rural Development & Land Reform and the Cooperative Governance & Traditional Affairs Department.

(3)(b)(i) The involvement will be in line with Section 21 of the National Water Act, (Act no. 36 of 1998), as follows:

(3)(b)(ii)

- Department of Minerals & Resources: Issue mining licenses, which impact on water quality.
- National Planning Commission: Facilitates national spatial development
- Department of Energy: Issue licenses for generation of hydro-power
- Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries: Administer use of water mainly for irrigation.
- Department of Rural Development & Land Affairs: Aligned water availability to enhance rural livelihoods and land productivity.
- Department of Cooperative Governance & Traditional Affairs: Provision of Water Services.

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