



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 84 (64) FOR WRITTEN REPLY

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


DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Act)

DATE: 7/12/09

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/ AMENDED


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

DATE: 2009. 12. 09

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 84 (64)

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 21 OCTOBER 2009 (INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 7)

84. Ms A T Lovemore (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs: [Written Question No 64]

- (1) Whether an experienced limnologist is overseeing a certain project (name furnished); if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) (a) what is the administrative relationship between the said project and Rand Water, (b) what is the name of the project manager, (c) what relevant experience does the manager bring to the job, (d) what amount was allocated to the monitoring of this project in each of the past three financial years, (e) where does the funding come from and (f) why was Rand Water chosen for this role;
- (3) Whether the fishery component of this project is on schedule; if not, what is being done to improve the situation; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

- (1) Yes, an experienced and qualified limnologist, Dr Carin van Ginkel is part of the Hartbeespoort Dam Remediation Programme Steering Committee and Aquatic specialist technical task team, and has been actively involved since the start of the programme in 2007.

In addition to Dr van Ginkel, Prof. Gert Steyn who is also a Limnologist/ Aquatic Ecologist and Limnologist, Juha Keto, an international specialist/ Limnologist from the City of Lahti in Finland are also actively involved in the programme.

- (2)(a) Rand Water has been appointed as the implementing agent on behalf of My Department for the Harties Metsi a Me Integrated Bioremediation Programme.
- (2)(b) Although Mr Sameer Morar is the project manager, there is a management team from Rand Water which consists of Mrs Mamorena Ramosoou, Senior Project Manager and Mr. Mandia Xulu, Water Cycle Management Strategist.
- (2)(c) The combined experience of the team in the water sector is Thirty one (31) years.
- (2)(d) The programme monitoring included the development, updating, monitoring and implementation of the business plan. Internal monitoring includes monthly progress reports and quarterly progress reports to the Department, North West Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment and the Inter Governmental Steering Committee for the past three financial years. Rand Water continues to conduct the overall auditing of the programme. Table 1 below reflects the funding allocation for the project.

Table 1: Harties Metsi a Me Integrated Bioremediation Programme Funding Allocation

	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009
Internal Programme Coordination Management and Control (Project Coordinating Office, HBPD Coordinating Committee)	R 560 000	R 1 055 000	R 1 850 000
Business Plan and Progress Reporting (Department, Executive Committees of both Departments and Steering Committees)	R 320 000	R 190 000	R 215 000

- (2)(e) My Department is the main sponsor for the programme, although Rand Water contributed a significant amount as part of the social commitment as a Water Services Provider in the catchment.
- (2)(f) Rand Water is one of the oldest role players with extensive knowledge and experience within the Water Sector and is the largest supplier of potable water within the catchment of the Hartbeespoort Dam. Rand Water also offered its services to My Department on a no cost basis as part of their commitment and social responsibility.
- (3) The fisheries project is not on schedule due to various operational institutional challenges experienced. The draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Local Rules for the Hartbeespoort dam was published during Water Week in March 2009 for public comment. The lack of signing off the Local Rules hamper the management of the local users (mainly recreational) of the dam which results in vandalism, damage and theft of equipment, as well as constraints the fish contractor experienced. The programme management has decided after investigation of various alternatives to extend the fisheries project through parallel fish harvesting initiatives.