water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Enquiries:	Mr H. Muller
Telephone:	012-336-6568
Reference:	2/1/5/1

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 2827 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mr M J Ellis (DA); is attached for your consideration.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 4/11/2010

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

MRS B E E MOLEWA, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DATE: 2010/11/13

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 2827

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 15 OCTOBER 2010
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 31)

2827. Mr M J Ellis (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

(1)   Whether there is (a) a review under way of the South African National Standard, 241 (Sans) drinking water and (b) any (i) policy or (ii) intention by the department to weaken the provisions of national drinking water standards; if not, what is the position in each case; if so, in each case, (aa) how was this conclusion reached and (bb) what are the further relevant details?   NW3508E

---00O00---

REPLY:

(1)(a)   Yes. The South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) as the custodian of all standards has commenced with a review process of the SANS 241 (Drinking Water Standard).

(1)(b)(i)   There is no policy in place to weaken the standards.

(1)(b)(ii) There is also no intention to weaken the standards.

(1)(aa)   There is neither a policy nor an intention to weaken standards.

(1)(bb)   Our request for the review was to ensure that the standard is more in line with the limits suggested by the World Health Organisation (WHO). The WHO recently revised the international drinking water guidelines to ensure that a more risk-based approach is adopted and my Department (as a key member of the SANS 241 committee), is fully supportive of this process. The revised standards will be available for public comment from the SABS during the first half of 2011.

---00O00---