



**water affairs**

Department:  
Water Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

2010 -04- 23

PRIVATE BAG X313  
PRETORIA 0001

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1169 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

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

  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 22 - 04 - 2010

  
DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

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

DATE: 26. 04. 2010

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1169

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 19 APRIL 2010  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 10)

**1169. Mr G R Morgan (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:**

- (1) (a) What is the assurance level for water provision that her department has given to Eskom's soon-to-be-completed Medupi power station and (b) how was this level determined;
- (2) whether water provision to this power station will affect water rights of farmers in the Ellisras area; if not, how was this conclusion reached; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether she will discuss with farmers from Ellisras the possible need for compensation for their water rights that may not be realised in the event that available water resources are consumed by the power station; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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**REPLY:**

- (1)(a) Eskom is a strategic water user and the level of assurance of supply of water provision is 99,5%.
- (1)(b) Due to the strategic importance of generating electricity and the country's dependency on electricity from Eskom, all power stations are supplied at a 99,5% level of assurance of supply. Over many years of water infrastructure investments that serve this sector, this assurance level was implicitly agreed to be optimal.
- (2) The existing lawful water use of farmers in the Lephalale Area will not be affected. In the determination of the sustainable yield of the Mokolo Dam, the legal entitlement of the irrigation allocation in accordance with the relevant white papers and proclamations were taken into consideration.
- (3) The issue of compensation will only be relevant in the unlikely event that my Department needs access to the existing lawful irrigation entitlements from the Mokolo Dam. This will only be considered as a contingency measure and be done in consultation with the owners of the entitlements. The Mokolo Irrigation Board members have been informed of such a possibility.

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