



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

2010 -04- 23

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1170 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mr M M Swathe (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 1170

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

1170. Mr M M Swathe (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether she has been informed of incidences of sewage leaking from sewerage infrastructure in the Ba-Phalaborwa municipality into the surrounding water courses; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether she will investigate the situation; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether her department intends issuing a (a) pre-directive or (b) directive in terms of section 19(3) of the National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998, against the Ba-Phalaborwa municipality for sewage leaks; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) whether the management of the Kruger National Park has (a) been informed of the sewage leaks by the Ba-Phalaborwa municipality and (b) engaged the municipality to find a sustainable solution for sewage leaks; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details in each case;
- (5) whether her department (a) will compel the municipality to inform those users affected by the spillage and (b) has scored the waste water treatment works of Ba-Phalaborwa municipality in terms of the Green Drop criteria; if not, why not in each case; if so, what are the relevant details in each case?

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REPLY:

- (1) Yes, my Department was informed about the sewage leaking at Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality (LM) emanating from a sewage spillage from a pump station.
- (2) My Department has investigated the pollution incident and discovered that the water pollution occurred due to irregularities at the main pump station. My Department subsequently issued a pre-directive in terms of section 19(3) of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No 36 of 1998) [the Act] to Ba-Phalaborwa LM, however, there seems to be a dispute of ownership of the infrastructure. My Department is currently determining such ownership between the Ba-Phalaborwa LM and the Mopani District Municipality as the water services authority.
- (3)(a) Yes, on confirmation of the ownership of the infrastructure, my Department will issue a pre-directive in terms of section 19(3) of the Act if the sewage leakage reoccurs.
- (3)(b) Yes, a directive may be issued if the representation from the Municipality fails to put an action plan in place to prevent the pollution from recurring.
- (4)(a) Yes, there has been communication between my Department and the Kruger National Park (KNP). The KNP was part of the initial site inspection and were invited on a subsequent inspection.

- (4)(b) Yes, KNP engaged the municipality through an official letter sent to the Mayor of Ba-Phalaborwa LM.
- (5)(a) As indicated in paragraph 4(b), there has been engagement between the KNP as the affected party and the municipality. My Department may instruct the Municipality as part of the directive to compel them to inform the affected down-stream water users.
- (5)(b) The Green Drop Report has not yet been officially released.

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