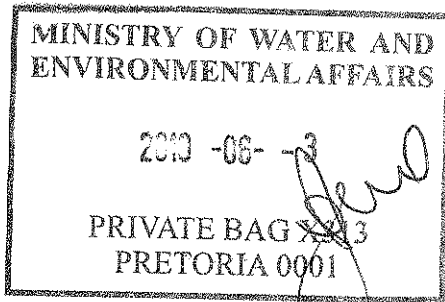




water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Enquiries: M A Matukane
Telephone: 015-290-1215
Reference: 6/2/2/6

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1172 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mrs D van der Walt (DA); is attached for your consideration.


DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 2/6/10

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED


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

DATE: 2010. 06 - 04

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1172

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

1172. Mrs D van der Walt (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether she has been informed of the extensive illegal removal of indigenous tree species within the drainage areas of the Nylsvley Ramsar site within the jurisdiction of Mookgopong municipality; if so, what steps will she take in this regard; if not,
- (2) whether she will investigate the matter; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether leaks from sewage infrastructure within the Mookgopong municipality are posing a threat to the Nylsvley Ramsar site; if not, how was this conclusion reached; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) whether she has been informed that the Mookgopong municipality has approved the operation of a graveyard that is within 300 metres of boreholes that provide drinking water to the town of Naboomspruit; if so, why has the establishment of the graveyard been permitted within such close proximity; if not,
- (5) whether she will investigate the matter; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

- (1) No, I have not been informed of any extensive illegal removal of indigenous tree species within the drainage areas of the Nylsvley Ramsar site in the jurisdiction of Mookgopong municipality. My Department is however aware that some branches (from indigenous trees) which are growing into the management roads have been removed.

It should be noted that there are Rangers who are patrolling the area on a daily basis and all incidents (if any) are reported on a patrol report form which is given to the Manager of Nylsvley (Limpopo Economic Development Economic and Tourism). Further, there are two access controlled gates within the area which are managed by Limpopo Tourism and Parks as well as Nylsvley and no person is allowed to remove plants or animals without the necessary permits.
- (2) The matter was brought to the attention of Mookgopong Municipality for investigation and they confirmed that some overgrown tree branches of indigenous plants were being removed.
- (3) No, where leaks are noted, they are immediately attended to by the Mookgopong Municipality.
- (4) No, I have not been informed of the approval of the graveyard as the environmental impact assessment report was not received by my Department to comment on potential impact on the borehole.
- (5) Yes, my Department is in the process of investigating this matter.

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