



## water affairs

Department:  
Water Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

2010 -06- 07

PRIVATE BAG X313  
PRETORIA 0001

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1406 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mr N J J van R Koornhof (Cope); is attached for your consideration.

  
DIRECTOR GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 4/6/10

  
~~DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED~~

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

DATE: 08/06/2010

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1406

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 07 MAY 2010  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 12)

**1406. Mr N J J van R Koornhof (Cope) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:**

- (1) Whether she has been informed of the recent report of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) that was commissioned by the Olifants River Forum (details furnished) regarding the pollution of the Olifants River; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so,
- (2) whether she will take the necessary steps indicated in the report to save the river; if not, why not; if so, what steps?

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**REPLY**

- (1) Yes, my Department became aware of the content of the studies (focusing on impacts generated by all economic activities within the upper catchment) which are in progress on the Olifants River and Loskop Dam through the attendance of the Open Day of the Olifants River Forum (ORF) on 23 April 2010.

During the Open Day, it was noted that the ORF was approached by the CSIR to initiate a multi-disciplinary research project on the Upper Olifants River Catchment in 2008/09. The project was approved in August 2009, commenced in October 2009 and will run over a 3-year period of which the first year (first phase); to be completed towards November 2010 will form the baseline for the next two years of the research work. Further, various presentations were made (during the Open Day) by the Olifants River Project Team under the auspices of Dr. Paul Oberholster from the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), which consist of the CSIR, University of Pretoria, University of Stellenbosch and the Mpumalanga Parks and Tourism Agency (MPTA). Some of the presented topics were inter alia Water Quality: Upper Olifants River; Isotopes; Fish Health; Microbial Pathogens and Contaminants and Eutrophication.

- (2) The steps and/or recommendations as indicated in the presentations, which may become part of the final report (to be in November 2010) in progress, will definitely guide the proposals, upon which all fora (within the province) and related task teams will embark upon. On receipt of the final report, my Department will evaluate such report to possibly guide and/or influence the future activities/processes.

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