



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

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PRETORIA 0001

Enquiries: Ms T. Sigwaza
Telephone: 012-336-6600
Reference: 2/1/5/1

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1575 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Dr L L Bosman (DA); is attached for your consideration.


DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 18/6/10


DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED


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

DATE: 21.06.2010

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1575

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 21 MAY 2010
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 14)

1575. Dr L L Bosman (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

Whether catchment management agencies (CMAs) have been established at all water management agencies (WMAs) in terms of the National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998; if not, (a) why not, (b) which WMAs do not have CMAs and (c) when is it envisaged that CMAs will be established by these WMAs; if so, what are the relevant details? NW1837E

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REPLY:

- (a) No, not all the CMAs have been established at all WMAs, the only CMAs established and operational are the Inkomati and Breede-Overberg CMA. The Mvoti to Umzimkulu, Crocodile West Marico, Olifants-Doorn, Gouritz, Thukela and Usutu to Mhlatuze CMAs have been gazetted for establishment and have finalised their advisory committee processes. We are currently in the process of recommending which sectors should be represented on the board. The Berg has finalised the proposal for establishment and gazetted it for comment. The Olifants, Upper Vaal water management areas have done extensive work towards establishment through public participation processes. Public participation initiatives have been initiated in the Limpopo and in Levuvhu-Letaba water management areas and a draft establishment proposal has been submitted.

The lessons learned from the establishment process of the two functional CMAs indicated the following challenges:

- The limitation around financial availability: it cost about R22 million to run a CMA and currently CMAs are not self sufficient and are still dependent on my Department;
- The inability to attract the right level of expertise: CMAs are located in remote rural areas and experienced staff are hesitant to relocate to these areas;
- Delegation of functions: the process to delegate functions to CMAs has been slow due to their incapacity to take over all functions; and
- Society's perception of CMAs: most of the users are poor and see water as a social good and therefore cannot contribute much in the economic activities of the CMA.

The Institutional Realignment Project will enable us to re-examine the approach and financial viability of the proposed new CMAs

- (b) The WMA which do not have CMAs gazetted for establishment are the Upper Vaal, Middle Vaal, Lower Vaal, Lower Orange, Upper Orange, Fish to Tsitsikamma, Mzimvubu to Keiskamma, Olifants, Limpopo and in Levuvhu-Letaba and Berg WMAs
- (c) There is no definite date as the process of establishing new CMAs is dependent on the outcomes and options to be recommended by the institutional realignment project. This project will conduct a business case for each proposed CMA and look at various options of aligning the CMAs and also the implications for broader stakeholder participation at local level. The process will be participatory and key sector stakeholders will be invited to state their views.

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