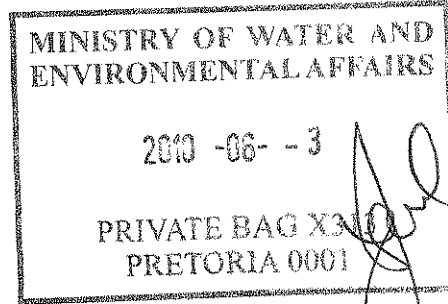




**water affairs**

Department:  
Water Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Enquiries: Muller Helgard  
Telephone: (012) 336-6567  
Reference: 6/2/2/6

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1602 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: 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 1602

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

**1602. Mr G R Morgan (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:**

- (1) What are the (a) names and (b) locations of mines operating without valid water licences;
- (2) whether any such mines have applied for a water licence; if so, what are the reasons for the mines not having a water licence;
- (3) whether she is taking any steps to ensure that these mines obtain water licences; if not, why not; if so, what steps;
- (4) whether any (a) directives or (b) pre-directives have been issued against the mines in terms of the National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998, since 1 January 2008; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (5) when is it envisaged that all mines will be operating with valid water licences?

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**REPLY:**

- (1)(a) Mines operating without a licence are provided in **Annexure 1** as well as the respective provinces, whether these mines have applied for a licence and status of the licences. Where under the column "**status**" in the table in Annexure 1, it is indicated that the "*Licence being processed my Department (DWA)*", it means that the prescribed water use authorization process is followed. This will mean that considerations as well as the essential requirements as prescribed in the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998) are being investigated and analysed by specialists.
- (1)(b) Refer to **Annexure 1**
- (3) My Department has embarked on a special initiative, the Letsema Project, to evaluate all applications, expedite the process of issuing of licences where applicable and the aim of this project is to eradicate the existing backlog by March 2011.
- (4)(a) Yes, twenty two (22) Directives have been issued in terms of the National Water (Act 36 of 1998) against several mines.
- (4)(b) Yes, thirteen (13) pre-directives have been issued against several mines.
- (5) Whilst my Department can ensure that all applications for licenses are duly attended to and processed once all conditions are met, it largely depends on the legislative requirements of both the Departments of Mineral Resources and Environmental Affairs as well as participation of the mines to ensure that all mines are operating with valid water licenses. It is for these reasons impossible to provide a target date as requested.

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