



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

2010 -08- 26

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 2153 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mrs H N Ndude (Cope); is attached for your consideration.


DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE:

26/8/10


DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

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

DATE: 27. 08. 2010

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 2153

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 13 AUGUST 2010
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 20)

2153. Mrs H N Ndude (Cope) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether her department has taken any steps to prevent the pollution of water which will be used for domestic, agricultural and commercial consumption; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether her department has any educational programmes in place to prevent people from disposing of sewage into the waterways; if not, why not; if so, what programmes?
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REPLY:

- (1) My Department has taken many steps and is busy with several programs to prevent pollution of water.
 - It is a requirement of the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998) and its related processes that all persons and institutions undertaking waste discharge and disposal related activities must obtain an authorisation from my Department. This authorisation or licence as it is commonly known requires the person, company or institution to put measures into place to improve on the quality of the treated effluent that is being discharged or disposed into the rivers and streams of the specific catchment. This authorisation process also ensures that activities like the Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTWs) have mitigation measures in place to prevent the inflow of raw sewage into the water resources.
 - My Department as the water regulator is monitoring all water users to ensure that there is compliance with the conditions of the licenses. If conditions are breached or should persons, institutions or companies pollute any river or stream without a license then a directive is issued. Currently, there are 23 cases which my Department has started with legal process where there was non compliance with the directives as issued.
- (2) My Department does from time to time run campaigns through the nine regional offices where the public is made aware of cholera and other waterborne diseases, where basic health and hygiene education has been done and pamphlets, soap and Jik were handed out to the communities.

Communities were also made aware of the potential health impacts of faecally polluted water through industrial theatre group performances. Posters, booklets and pamphlets were handed out to the schools in the communities. Clean ups at nearby streams were done with the cooperation of the municipalities after the performances. The waste bags were disposed of by the municipalities after the clean ups.

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