



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

2010 -10- 2 2

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 2533 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Rev K R J Meshoe (ACDP); is attached for your consideration.


DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 22/10/10

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED


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

DATE: 24. 10. 2010

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 2533

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 13 SEPTEMBER 2010
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 28)

2533. Rev K R J Meshoe (ACDP) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

Whether she has launched an investigation into the widely reported concerns pertaining to (a) the increasing volume of acid mine drainage (details furnished) and (b) its impact on (i) the City of Johannesburg and (ii) the health of its residents; if not, (aa) why not and (bb) when will such investigation be launched; if so, in each case, what (aaa) are the findings of the investigation, (bbb) measures have been put in place to deal with these concerns and (ccc) are the further relevant details?

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REPLY:

- (a) Yes, in view of the urgency with regard to Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) in the Witwatersrand area, including the City of Johannesburg, an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) has been established by Cabinet in order to promptly investigate the current challenges with the AMD.

A team of experts was subsequently appointed to conduct investigations which will include the following;

- To reappraise the risks;
- To assess the impacts of AMD;
- To assess what has been done by various institutions;
- To assess available solutions and technology;
- To interrogate and assess viability as well as the costs of critical short term interventions;
- To develop integrated lasting and sustainable medium and long-term solutions; and
- To explore possible partnerships with private sector.

(b)(i) The impact on the City of Johannesburg will be detailed in a report to the IMC.

(b)(ii) The impact on the health of the residents will be detailed in a report to the IMC.

(aa) Falls away.

(bb) The investigation commenced after the IMC meeting on 1 September 2010 by the team of experts, who will present the investigation report to the IMC on 21 October 2010.

(aaa) As indicated in the above paragraph, the Investigation findings will be presented to the IMC on 21 October 2010.

(bbb) Same as paragraph (aaa).

(ccc) The Report will address AMD management on a short, medium and long-term scale.

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