



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

2010 -12- 09

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 3306 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mr S J Masango (DA); is attached for your consideration.

ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 2/12/2010

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

MRS B E E MOLEWA, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DATE: 2010/12/14

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 3306

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 12 NOVEMBER 2010
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 37)

3306. Mr S J Masango (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

Whether her department issued a water use licence to a certain company (name furnished) for their project (details furnished); if not, why not; if so, (a) when was this licence issued and (b) where can a copy of this licence be obtained? NW4131E

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REPLY:

The company does not have a water use licence for the Makhado Project as they are currently conducting prospecting for coal in their Project. The company has a valid permit for this prospecting issued by the Department of Mineral Resources during February 2010.

On 5 November 2010, the company wrote to the Department's Regional Office indicating that they had intercepted clean ground water as a result of the coal prospecting as the prospecting had not yet reached the coal seam. In parallel, all activities in the Project were halted until a water analysis conducted confirmed that the water was indeed clean.

Since the prospecting activity was no longer possible due to the pit being filled with water, the company contacted the Regional Office for advice on how to deal with the water in the pit and was advised to apply for General Authorisation since the water intercepted was deemed to be clean water. Subsequently, a General Authorisation was issued on 12 November 2010 for water uses in terms of section 21(a), (b), (c), (i) and (j) of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No 36 of 1998).

As part of the conditions, the company is expected to conduct water analysis on a bi-weekly basis to assess whether the quality has not changed from clean to waste water. Should there be any changes to the quality of the water, the authorisation will be amended.

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