



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

2010 -03- 26


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21/6/13

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 354 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mrs A T Lovemore (DA); is attached for your consideration.


DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 25/3/10

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED


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

DATE: 29/03/2010

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 354

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 26 FEBRUARY 2010
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 4)

354. Mrs A T Lovemore (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether her department (a) determines the skills and capacity requirements in the water sector, (b) develops a database of such requirements and;(c) maintains the database; if not, what is the position in each regard; if so, what are the relevant details in each case;
- (2) whether her department is kept informed of the results of the determination conducted; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the details of the system used by her department to determine, record and update a database;
- (3) whether the database allows determination of skills available per water service institution; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) whether her department submits recommendations to the Departments of Basic Education and/or Higher Education and Training to ensure (a) the development and availability of appropriate training courses and (b) the training of appropriate numbers of learners; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (5) whether her department interacts with the Department of Higher Education and Training to ensure the functional support of water sector training needs by the Energy Sector Education and Training Authority; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

- (1)(a) No, the Water Sector needs are determined by both the Local Government Sector Education and Training Authority as well as the Energy Sector Education and Training Authority (ESETA) through the analysis of Workplace skills plans of Municipalities and all institutions in the Water Sector, including my department. The Workplace skills plans are submitted annually to SETAs. This is a requirement in line with the Skills Development Act of 1997. The SETAs generate consolidated sector skills plans and engage all affected stakeholders in terms of implementation and monitoring. It is important to note that the Water Research Commission conducted a study on skills gap analysis for the water services discipline and this information informs the skills development process. The study done by Allyson Lawless from SAICE on Engineering Shortages "Needs and Numbers" has also been used to inform the skills development process.

In pursuance of our Sector Leadership role and in line with the Water for Growth and Development Framework My Department will embark on a skills analysis project to gather information and intelligence around the required and available skills both for water services and water resources. This process will culminate into a skills gap analysis and capability statement for the Water Sector. This will ensure that the Department is able to intervene in an integrated and impactful way.

(1)(b) Falls away

(1)© Falls away

(2) Yes, My Department is expected to sign off the consolidated Sector Skills Plan which is generated by the ESETA and is also participating at both strategic and operational levels of ESETA

(3) Yes, all water institutions submit their Workplace Skills Plans to the SETAs, which is the basis on which the Sector Skills Plans are developed. The Water Sector Skills Plan is available at the Energy and Local Government SETAs

(4)(a)

and

(4)(b) No, My department has not formally submitted recommendations to the Department of Education. However there have been very strong collaboration, particularly with the Department of Basic Education in ensuring water literacy is mainstreamed through the following activities;

- *Implementation of schools based competitions* – My Department has been running competitions since 2003 among learners to promote the value of water, health and hygiene; and water sector careers and opportunities, research and innovation on appropriate technology. The latter has created a platform for international participation where South African learners, from the Higher Education and Training (HET) band, have to date won two Global Youth Water Prize awards in Stockholm in 2003 and 2005 respectively. Memorandums of Agreement (MoAs) have been signed around these engagements with Provincial Departments of Education and the (MoAs) and with some Higher Education Academic Institutions are being revised to accommodate the new changes in Administration.
- *Curriculum support Material for Grades R to 9.* Curriculum support materials have been developed and were piloted in ninety (90) schools across the country. Feedback was received and the inputs are being addressed.
- Finalising the development of the resource materials for the General Education and Training Band (Grades R to 9) which will include additional climate change chapters. The Department of Basic Education will then review and authorise these materials for introduction into the General Education and Training band
- Ensure development of curriculum aligned resource materials for the Further Education and Training Band (Grade 10-12 and FET Colleges) to ensure that water issues are at the centre of all education and training, My Department has planned to develop these materials in 2010 and should be ready for use by January 2011
- Strengthen Workplace Education and Training programmes

(5) Yes, My Department interacts with the Institutes of Higher Learning directly and a Memorandums of Understanding with 14 (Fourteen) Institutes of Higher Learning to supports its professional development and staff development programmes has been signed. The support include accredited training courses (technical and non-technical), postgraduate support, and administrative support for the Department's external bursary scheme.

- In addition, My Department is actively involved with the FET Water project aimed at development of training programmes for the water sector

- My Department is also serving on curriculum committees of the relevant IHLs (Institutions of higher learning).
- My Department has recently been requested to assist with preparing a proposal for the development of a training programme in Integrated Water Resource Management at Tshwane University of Technology funded by Nuffic.

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