



**water affairs**

Department:  
Water Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES: QUESTION 41 FOR ORAL REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mr H B Groenewald (DA-NW); is attached for your consideration.

  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 31/5/10

  
DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

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

DATE: 31/05/10

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR ORAL REPLY

QUESTION NO 41

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 24 MAY 2010  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 13)

★41. Mr H B Groenewald (DA-NW) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether the Government has taken or is taking any steps to improve the waste water treatment systems that are not complying with international standards; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether there is any plan to prevent the inflow of raw sewage into our rivers; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether any plan is in place to ensure sufficient drinking water for South Africans; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

- (1) Yes. My Department introduced stringent criteria for the management of waste water systems, that include treatment standards and asset management. In the current Green Drop assessment cycle, assessors are conducting consultative audits to inform the rectification requirements and process control adaptations required for wastewater process optimization.
- (2) Yes. My Department's regulatory initiatives are being intensified with a stronger focus on:
  - \* The reduction of wastewater related risks with an objective of improving effluent quality;
  - \* Monitoring of compliance & appropriate engagement as per the enforcement protocol;
  - \* The improvement of a skills base through initiation of coaching programs for technical staff at under-performing waste water treatment facilities; and
  - \* Facilitation of wastewater management improvement by means of incentive-based regulation known as the Green Drop Certification program.
- (3) The Provision of sufficient drinking water, planning and funding of this function is a municipal responsibility. My Department is concerned that many municipalities do not plan properly or allocate insufficient funds to this function. It is also not only the capital investment that is needed but proper asset management, institutional arrangements and most importantly proper qualified staff and skills. Part of this function should be regarded as an economic service and sufficient funds should be generated from own income as well as appropriate use of the Equitable Share allocation to fund such services.