



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 ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 686 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 (Acting)

DATE: 31/3/10

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED _____


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

DATE: 13/04/2010

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 686

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 15 MARCH 2010
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 7)

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

- (1) Whether the Water Sector Leadership Group (WSLG) that was established in 1998 is still operational; if not, why not; if so, what are the details of the (a) leadership, (b) membership, (c) objectives and (d) task teams operating under the auspices of the group;
- (2) whether the skills task team that was formed in 2008 is still operational; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details of the (a) leadership, (b) membership, (c) objectives, (d) achievements and (e) challenges identified by the team that has not yet been addressed?

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REPLY:

- (1) Yes, the Water Sector Leadership Group (WSLG) is still operational. At the time of its inception, it was named the Water Services Sector Leadership Group (WSSLG), but it was later changed to WSLG to inclusive both water services and water resources.
- (1)(a) The WSLG is convened by my Department's Director-General (DG) and co-chaired by senior managers (DG or delegated Deputy Director-General), the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), and the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA).
- (1)(b) The forum is composed of senior managers from various national sector departments, water sector institutions, research institutions and professional bodies, organised business, local government and civil society. The member institutions are:
 - My Department; CoGTA; Departments of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; Environmental Affairs; Human Settlement; Rural Development and Land Reform; Mineral Resources; Energy; and Health.
 - National Treasury; Presidency (Planning).
 - Established Catchment Management Agencies; Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA); South African Association of Water Utilities (SAAWU); SA Association of Water User Associations; Masibambane Civil Society Committee; Chairpersons of Provincial Water Sector Forums.
 - SA Chamber of Mines; Forestry South Africa; SALGA; National African Farmers Union (NAFU); South African Black Technical and Allied Careers Organisation (SABTACO); South African Association of Consulting Engineers (SAACE) and the South African Institution of Civil Engineering (SAICE); Institute of Municipal Engineering of South Africa (IMESA); Water Institute of Southern Africa (WISA).
 - Business Unity South Africa (BUSA); South African NGO Coalition (SANGOCO); Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA); ESKOM & SASOL; Energy Sector Education and Training Authority (ESETA).
 - Water Research Commission (WRC); Agricultural Research Council (ARC); Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR); Water Information Network South Africa (WIN-SA).
 - European Union; DANIDA; Irish Aid; JAIDA; DFID.

(1)(c) The objectives of the WSLG are:

- To serve as an advisory structure to assist my Department in the execution of its duties as a sector leader.
- To provide expertise and a platform for peer review towards addressing sector priorities and the achievement of sector objectives.
- Working together with my Department in devising strategies on how the challenges facing the water sector can be addressed.

(1)(d) Five (5) Strategic Task Teams have been established under the auspices of the WSLG namely:

- The Institutional Reform and Regulation Task Team which will assist My Department to develop a regulatory regime for the water sector and guide the institutional realignment of water sector institutions.
- The Water Security Task Team which will coordinate sector inputs into the revision of the National Water Resources Strategy, development of a Water Conservation and Demand Management Plan and development of a Water Sector Climate Change Response Plan.
- The Skills Development Task Team which will drive the development and implementation of a 2025 Water Sector Skills Development Plan and creation of Knowledge and Information Management capacity.
- The National Sanitation Task Team which coordinates support towards eradication of basic sanitation backlogs and the review of the Household Sanitation Policy.
- The Finance and Asset Management Task Team which has been mandated with the development of a water sector finance model and the finalisation of a Water Services Infrastructure Asset Management Plan.

(2) Yes, the Skills Development Task Team is still operational as indicated above in (1)(d).

(2)(a) The Skills Development Task Team is convened and led by My Department.

(2)(b) The task team is composed of the following institutions:

- My Department, the Departments of Environmental Affairs; Human Settlements; CoGTA; Labour; Basic Education; Higher Education; Science and Technology; Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- Water Research Commission; ESETA; Local Government SETA; SALGA; Cities Network; District Water Services Managers Forum.
- DBSA; WISA; SAICE; Framework Programme for Research Education and Training in Water (FETWater); SAAWU; WIN-SA; SANGOCO; provincial Skills Development & Retention Committees (NC, EC, GP, FS).
- Experts and support service providers.

(2)(c) The objectives of the Skills Development Strategic Task Team are:

- To secure partnerships and alliances with all relevant stakeholders and role-players for the development and implementation of skills development and human resource development in the sector.
- To achieve a water-literate sector and ensure adequate levels of water related knowledge amongst politicians, decision makers and planners in relevant sectors as well as all communities and water users.
- To facilitate and lobby for programmes and initiatives to ensure that the shortage and scarcity of skills are addressed, not only at career level, but also across the whole spectrum of education and training.
- To align broader human resource development plans and educational strategies with those of the sector such as my Department's 2025 Vision, 2020 Vision for schools,

the Sector Support Strategy, the National Skills Plan, and the SETA Sector Skills Plan.

- To promote accountability through the development of reporting and monitoring systems in alignment with government's monitoring and evaluation initiatives and the reporting obligations of the sector.
- To consolidate resources, knowledge, learning and understanding regarding skills development within the water sector and contribute to the development of an information system for capacity building and skills development in the water sector.
- To facilitate and sustain specific research aimed at enhancing an understanding of the capacity building and skills development needs within the sector and the specific actions and tasks required to promote adequacy and efficiency within the water sector human resources development environment.
- To pro-actively influence the quality of skills development initiatives within the sector through specific interventions such as representation on the ESETA board and committees to address water and sanitation issues.

(2)(d) The achievements of the Task Team include the following:

- The placement of retired engineers and young science and engineering professionals in municipalities with capacity needs.
- Development of a coordinating framework for the implementation of skills development initiatives, a final draft of which is due for discussion by members of the Task Team on 30 and 31 March 2010.

(2)(e) The key challenge for the Task Team is the alignment and coordination of various skills development initiatives which are driven by a range of stakeholders within and outside the sector.