



**water affairs**

Department:  
Water Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 826 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mr G R Morgan (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: 2010.04.01

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 826

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 23 MARCH 2010  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 8)

826. Mr G R Morgan (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) (a) How far below ground level is the acid mine drainage (AMD) in Gauteng's central basin and (b) by how many meters is the AMD rising on average each month;
- (2) whether any measures are being taken to prevent the AMD from compromising the integrity of buildings in the City of Johannesburg; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

- (1)(a) The current level of the Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) in Gauteng's central basin is approximately 580 meters below the surface.
- (1)(b) Currently, the rise of the AMD is between 15 (fifteen) and 21 (twenty one) meters per month.
- (2) My Department is playing a leading role in finding short, medium and long term solutions to the AMD challenges at large. During a meeting held on 9 December 2009 between the relevant government departments and mine managers, the establishment of a public private partnership (PPP) was proposed. The proposed PPP will address all the AMD challenges and will in particular focus on priority areas such as the central basin in order to deal with the rising water table timeously. The construction of a pump station in the central basin is imminent and regular high level discussions are taking place between My Department and the Chief Executive Officer of the mine most affected by the rising water table.

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