



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

2010 -08- 26

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES: QUESTION 254 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

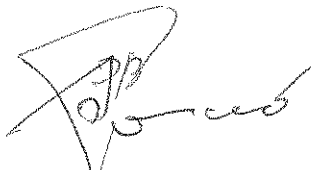
A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mr K A Sinclair (COPE-NC); is attached for your consideration.


DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE:

26/8/10

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED



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

DATE:

27/08/2010

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 254

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 06 AUGUST 2010
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 18)

254. Mr K A Sinclair (COPE-NC) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

Whether her department has put into place researched and transparent measures to deal with the problem of millions of litres of highly acidic mine water rising to the surface of Johannesburg and other cities which is on the reef to spill out in the streets; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

Yes, my Department has engaged the relevant mines in order to seek for short, medium and long term solutions. Although the medium and long term solutions have not been finalised, the plans for the short term (interim) solution to prevent the mine water rising above a level that would be detrimental to the environment, as well as to secure gold reserves are being considered for implementation. It is envisaged that a pump station will be built and that an existing treatment plant will be refurbished to treat the mine water to an acceptable standard for discharge into the Klip River, as had been done before mining operations ceased in the area in October 2008.

Following recent statements by Cabinet, I was mandated to urgently convene a special task team to develop a clear and coordinated strategy to deal with the matter, an Inter Ministerial Committee comprising the Ministers of Finance, Mineral Resources, Science and Technology, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and the Minister in the Presidency: National Planning Commission, is in the process of being established.

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