



**water affairs**

Department:  
Water Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

2010 -12- 09

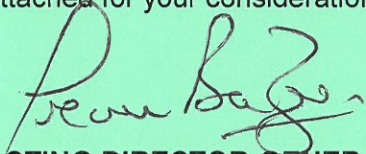
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**MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**


**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES: QUESTION 407 FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mr M P Sibande (ANC-Mpumalanga); is attached for your consideration.

  
ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 8/12/2010

**DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED**

  
MRS B E E MOLEWA, MP  
MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DATE: 2010/12/14

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 407

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 29 October 2010  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 31)

**407. Mr M P Sibande (ANC-Mpumalanga) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:**

How will her department sustain the (a) projects and (b) communities that are currently dependent on the Wolwedans Dam on the Great Brak River in the Western Cape which is drying up?

CW535E

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**REPLY:**

The Wolwedans Dam (which is a state owned storage works) does not support projects and/or communities. The Wolwedans Dam's main purpose is to serve as a bulk water supply to the Mossel Bay Local Municipality (LM) and the petrochemical industrial complex (PetroSA).

I am aware that there are 47 commercial farmers in the catchment, seven which are directly abstracting from the Wolwedans Dam. However, these farmers have access to water for domestic and stock water. The Provincial Department of Agriculture supports the most severely affected farmers by supplying fodder for the survival of the animals through Provincial Drought Relief Grants.

The Department in collaboration with other National, Provincial and Local Government structures regularly meet and consolidate all drought relief measures to sustain domestic water security to the Mossel Bay LM and PetroSA.

Prior to 1 January 2010, unrestricted bulk abstraction by the Mossel Bay LM, PetroSA and commercial agriculture within the catchment of the dam took place. Due to the drought in the Southern Cape Region, from 1 January 2010, the Department imposed a 40% restriction on bulk domestic and industrial water use, in order to ensure short, medium and longer-term water security for domestic and industrial water supply from the Wolwedans Dam.

Effective from 17 July 2010, the Department imposed a 60% restriction on agricultural water use on all farmers in the catchment of the Wolwedans Dam. The aim of restrictions imposed on the commercial farmer sector was to increase the inflow to the Wolwedans Dam and to enhance the water security to the communities supplied by Mossel Bay LM.

The Department's Regional office: Western Cape is conducting compliance, monitoring and enforcement of the imposed restrictions thus restricting any unlawful water use.

Similar restrictions apply to the other bulk water resources that supply water to the Mossel Bay LM and its communities eg the Klipheuvel Dam on the Moordkuil River (which has been a major source of water supply to Mossel Bay LM till 2005) and the Hartebeestekuil Dam on a tributary to the Hartenbos River.

Through these imposed restrictions (which have been supported by the development of alternative bulk sources such as bulk desalination plant, groundwater and reclamation of treated water) and the good rainfall during October 2010 and November 2010, the storage capacity of the Wolwedans Dam has increased by 25% (from 17% to 42%) as measured on 6 December 2010. Consequently, my Department is currently considering decreasing the imposed restrictions on the Mossel Bay LM and PetroSA by 10% and the agricultural farmers by 20%.

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