



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

2011 -08- 10

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1971 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above question asked by Mrs H N Ndude (Cope) is attached for your consideration.

ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 10/08/2011

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

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

DATE: 29.08.2011

I have signed off this response long ago!
- Vilakazi - please investigate where it was kept and why?

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1971

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 29 July 2011
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 20)

1971. Mrs H N Ndude (Cope) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

Whether her department has identified any (a) short-term or (b) long-term solutions for the problem of acid mine drainage; if not, why not; if so, (i) what solutions have been identified in each case and (ii) when will her department take decisive action with regard to such possible solutions?

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REPLY:

- (a) Yes, immediate and short-term solutions have been identified for managing acid mine drainage (AMD) in the Western Basin. Short-term solutions have also been proposed for the Eastern and Central Basins.
- (b) No, the long-term solution will depend on the outcome of a feasibility study to be undertaken by the Department.
- (b)(i) The immediate solution for the Western Basin and the short-term solutions for the Eastern, Central and Western Basins entail the refurbishment of existing mine water treatment plants and / or the construction of new plants. These plants will treat AMD by pH adjustment and heavy metal removal. Treated water will be discharged into watercourses and the opportunity to use this water in industrial processes is being investigated. Solid waste (heavy metal sludge) produced in the treatment process will be disposed into appropriate facilities.
- (b)(ii) The process to authorise the immediate solution for the Western Basin has commenced and it is anticipated that it will be operational by December 2011. The short-term solutions for the Eastern, Central and Western Basins are in the process of being finalised and are planned to be commissioned in the second half of 2012.

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