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MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
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PRETORIA 0001



water affairs
Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 3410 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above question asked by Mr M Swart (DA) is attached for your consideration.

ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL

DATE: 10/11/2011

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/~~AMENDED~~

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

DATE: 20/11/14

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 3410

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 01 NOVEMBER 2011
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 36)

Mr M Swart (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether, with reference to only 26 municipalities attaining Blue Drop status for water quality and 75% of sewerage treatment plants not being up to Green Drop status at the end of the 2009-10 financial year, she intends taking any steps to assist municipalities to improve their performance with regard to their management of water quality and sewerage treatment plants; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) Whether any mechanisms have been put in place to define and clarify the responsibilities in this regard between local and district municipalities; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

- (1) The primary objective of the incentive-based regulation approach adopted within the context of the Blue Drop and Green Drop Certification Programmes is to ensure improvement in the management of drinking water quality and wastewater services respectively. This was achieved if one considers the performance trend of the past three years (since the inception of these programmes); which implies that the Department does not measure success by the number of Blue Drop and Green Drop allocations alone, but on all aspects that form part of this progressive regulation initiative.

The consultative auditing, conducted by my Department with the affected municipalities, is the first process of providing guidance on improving overall management, but with a specific focus on planning, risk management, operations and maintenance as part of asset management and treatment process optimisation (to improve quality). This is a process that precedes the reporting cycle and is highly valued by the sector for the capacity building element as been reported at various fora.

Further initiatives include programmes such as the Accelerated Community Infrastructure Programme (ACIP) and Regional Bulk Infrastructure Programme (RBIG), to assist with capital projects within the context of water supply and wastewater. A Rapid Response Unit was also established to serve those municipalities found to be in dire need for urgent guidance to improve as pointed out by the Blue Drop and Green Drop reports.

- (2) It is the responsibility of the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) to assign powers and functions to municipalities. All municipalities that are authorised by the said Minister to serve as water services authorities (WSAs) are responsible for functions assigned by the Water Services Act, 1997 (Act 108 of 1997). So for each and every area in this country there is only one WSA and all the functions assigned in the Water Services Act, 1997 will rest with it regardless of the fact whether this is a local or district municipality.

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