



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

2011 -03- 29

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 786 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mr M J Ellis (DA); is attached for your consideration.

ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 29/03/2011

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

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

DATE: 20.4.2011

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 786

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 11 MARCH 2011
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 06)

786. Mr M J Ellis (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether, with reference to her reply to question 1170 on 3 May 2010, her department has established the ownership of the sewerage infrastructure within Ba-Phalaborwa local municipality; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether, since her reply, a (a) pre-directive, (b) directive or (c) criminal charge has been instituted against the responsible municipality for any transgressions of the National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether there have been any pollution events from sewerage infrastructure in the municipality since her reply; if not, how was this conclusion reached; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) whether the Kruger National Park authorities are being informed when pollution events from sewerage infrastructure occur; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (5) whether her department is assisting in any way in the refurbishment of sewerage infrastructure in the municipality; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

- (1) Yes, the Department has established that the sewerage infrastructure is owned by the Mopani District Municipality.
- (2)(a) Yes, on 7 May 2010, a pre-directive [in terms of section 19 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998)] was issued to the Mopani District Municipality due to the failure of the pump station.
- (2)(b) No directive has been issued to the Mopani District Municipality as the pollution contravention has been rectified.
- (2)(c) No criminal charges have been laid against the Mopani District Municipality since the pollution contravention has been rectified.
- (3) There has been no pollution incidences linked to the Ba-Phalaborwa Main Pump Station that were reported to the Department after 26 April 2010. This conclusion is based on the standard operating procedure that pollution incidences that have the potential to pollute resources are reported to the relevant Regional Office and no "new" pollution reports linked to this pump station were received. The only report that was escalated by SAVE Chairperson on 18 February 2011 emanates from the complaint that was already lodged with this Department on 28 March 2010.
- (4) Yes, the Department informs the authorities of the Kruger National Park if there are pollution events which will affect the Kruger National Park. Such interaction takes place through various fora.

- (5) Yes, the Department continues to provide support to the Mopani District Municipality as a water services authority responsible for the local municipalities in its area of jurisdiction. With regard to the Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality, the Department has provided support in the refurbishment of the Lulekani and Namakgale Sewage Treatment Works from 2003 till 2011. In addition, the Department provides support for the operation and maintenance of schemes which were previously owned by the Department but have since been transferred to the Mopani District Municipality.

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