



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

2011 -08- 29

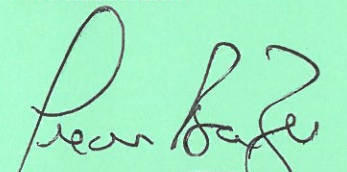
PRIVATE BAG X313
PRETORIA 0001 L.S.

Enquiries: Ms DG Mochotlhi
Telephone: 012 336 7255
Reference: 2/1/5/1

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

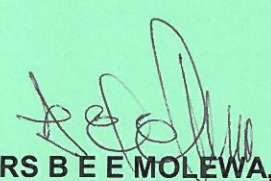
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 2111 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above question asked by Mr I O Davidson (DA) is attached for your consideration.


ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL

DATE: 26/08/2011

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DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED


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

DATE: 2011/08/28

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 2111

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 12 AUGUST 2011
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 23)

2111. Mr I O Davidson (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether, with reference to the results of the 2011 Green Drop Report where they pertain to the Mkhondo Local Municipality, the municipality has submitted its corrective action plan; if not, why not; if so, on what date was it submitted;
- (2) whether the report is available to the public; if not, why not; if so, what (a) are the relevant details of the plan and (b) has been the response of the Department of Water to the plan;
- (3) what are the key challenges that the Department of Water have identified that the Mkhondo Local Municipality needs to overcome in order to improve the performance of its wastewater treatment works?

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REPLY:

- (1) Yes. The corrective action plan was submitted on 12 August 2011.
- (2) Yes. The report is available to the public.
- (2)(a) The main areas of the action plan to be addressed by the Mkhondo Local Municipality are: the lack of expertise to undertake operational and maintenance (O&M) work for all treatment plants is a major cause for the breakdown of mechanical equipment Waste Treatment Works (WWTWs). The Municipality has recently appointed a Senior Manager for water and sanitation who is an Engineer by profession to address the O&M issues.

The second main problem is the lack of skilled operators to effectively and efficiently operate the sewer treatment works. Four (4) of the sewer treatment plant controllers are in an internship programme funded by Local Government Sector Education and Training Authority (LGseta), which is facilitated and implemented by the Department. The municipality has also set aside R 320 000 to train 16 additional process controllers.

The third issue is funding for infrastructure and the good news is that there are plans currently underway to refurbish the Amsterdam WWTW and this will be funded by the Gert Sibande District Municipality. In addition to this, there is an allocation of R 2 Million for fencing the municipal water and waste water treatment facilities and the Municipality is also in the process of appointing a security contractor to safeguard both the water and waste water treatment facilities against vandalism.

- (2)(b) The RRU will allocate a specialist to investigate the challenges facing the Municipality and remedial actions required to turnaround the situation and this will be compared or further inform the findings and actions of the Municipality. Furthermore, the regional office of the Department in Mpumalanga is planning to train municipal staff on the usage of the Green Drop System.
- (3) There are a full two pages (p 277 and 278) in the Green Drop Report devoted to the many problems identified at the two WWTWs under control of this Municipality. The key challenges as identified are the need to ensure that operations and maintenance are adequately prioritised and budgeted for, improving skills levels of the process controllers and the prioritisation by politicians and officials of the overall management of waste water services according to the requirements set by the Green Drop certification program.

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