



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

2011 -08- 25

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION NO. 2119 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: 25/08/11

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

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

DATE: 20/11/08/28

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 2119

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

2119. Mr I O Davidson (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether the Mkhondo Local Municipality has submitted its Corrective Action Plan since the results of the 2011 Blue Drop Report were communicated to them; if not, why not; if so, on what date;
- (2) whether the plan is available to the public; if not, why not; if so, where can the public access the document;
- (3) what are the relevant details of the (a) plan and (b) response of the Department of Water Affairs to the plan;
- (4) what key challenges has the Department of Water Affairs identified for Mkhondo Local Municipality to overcome in order to improve their performance of their drinking water management?

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REPLY:

- (1) Yes, corrective action plans were submitted to the Department on 12 August 2011.
- (2) Yes. The action plan is available at the Mkhondo Local Municipality.
- (3)(a) The action plan lists some actions with regard to the shortcomings regarding overall drinking water quality management. The plan lacks detail but indicates that certain crucial matters have already received attention, such as the R200 000 funding which was set aside to improve the functionality of the water treatment operational testing laboratory and the ongoing process of filling all 8 (eight) vacant Process Controller positions. The Department together with the Municipality will work on areas that have not been adequately addressed in the plan. The post of Senior Manager for water and sanitation has also been filled recently.

In addition, both water and wastewater treatment Process Controllers are to be trained in effective treatment operations and R320 000 has been set aside for this purpose. With vandalism having been identified as a major risk to the treatment plants, a security contractor is being appointed to mitigate this risk. An amount of R2 million has been set aside for fencing.

The action plan also states that intervention is required for the boreholes at Rustplaats and Hartebeesfontein because of the risks identified in those areas.

- (3)(b) The Department deems the action plan to be lacking in detail yet encouraging since it touches on the crucial elements required to mitigate and manage identified risks. The Department will engage with the Mkhondo Local Municipality to discuss implementation and the support required. The Rapid Response Facility Unit of the Department is ready to assist the Municipality with cost determination to inform business planning processes.

- (4) Through its Blue Drop audit processes, the Department has identified operational monitoring, process controlling, disinfection, risk assessment and management as key shortcomings in the management of drinking water quality within water supply systems under the jurisdiction of the Mkhondo Local Municipality.

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