



## water affairs

Department:  
Water Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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### MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

#### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION ★218 FOR ORAL REPLY

A draft reply to the above question asked by Ms P Bhengu (ANC) is attached for your consideration.

ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 02/11/2011

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/~~AMENDED~~

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

DATE: 20/11/02

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR ORAL REPLY

QUESTION NO. ★218

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 25 OCTOBER 2011  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 34)

**★218. Ms P Bhengu (ANC) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:**

What (a) are the most common challenges that are encountered by her department in respect of compliance with water source protection policies, (b) plans are in place to overcome these challenges, (c) impact does noncompliance with these policies have on (i) industrial and (ii) municipal operations and (d) enforcement measures or restrictions are used against landowners and businesses who fail to comply with water source protection policies?

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**REPLY:**

(a) Some of the most common challenges encountered by the Department in respect of compliance with water source protection are:

- Illegal water use
- Non compliance with license conditions such as not meeting the effluent discharge requirements
- Not installing appropriate meters
- Lack of or inconsistent recording of water use

(b) The Department has stepped up the Regulation function to ensure that there is specialised focus. For example, the establishment of the Directorate: Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement (D: CME). The Department is also focusing on training of personnel in the regulation field coupling this with capacitating of the D: CME. There is stakeholder engagement and capacity building which will result in sector participation and self regulation. Because of the above referred to efforts, the identified challenges will be reduced as the regulation function is strengthened. Workshops and meetings are held with municipalities in order to strengthen their capacity and to determine areas of need so that my Department can provide support where necessary, especially during the incentive-based regulation process for the Green Drop certification.

Coupled with these efforts, a review is currently underway of relevant regulation tools (regulations, strategies, guidelines etc) which will confirm the suitability and relevance of these tools. Such tools include:

- The development of guidelines for waste water management for different industries
- Revision of current effluent standards
- Determining charge rates for the implementation of the Waste Discharge System.

(c)(i) Deterioration of water quality due to non compliance would impact negatively on industrial produce and influence financial viability of such industries which in turn would impact the economy.

- (c)(ii) It would affect the quality of raw water and thereby directly increase the water treatment costs.
- (d) Non compliance with the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998), regulations and conditions specified in the authorisation is a serious offense. The Department issues Directives explaining what needs to be done where compliance is concerned. Failure to comply leaves the Department no choice but to lay criminal charges against transgressors.

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