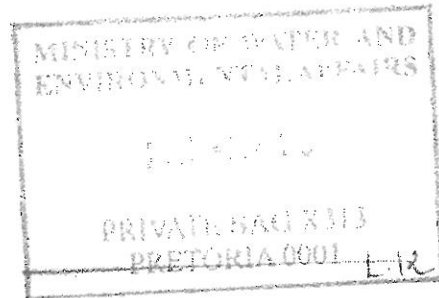




## water affairs

Department:  
Water Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Enquiries: F. Mntambo  
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Reference: 16/2/7/B100/C2

### MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 2519 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above question asked by Mrs H N Ndude (Cope) is attached for your consideration.

ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 9/09/2011

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

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

DATE: 20/11/09/13

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO 2519**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 02 SEPTEMBER 2011**  
**(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 27)**

**2519. Mrs H N Ndude (Cope) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:**

Whether she has taken any further steps in collaboration with other institutions with regard to dealing with contaminated water flowing into the Kruger National Park as a result of acid mine drainage; if not, why not; if so, what (a) plans and (b) are the further relevant details?

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**REPLY:**

(1)(a) Yes, there are currently operational forums that deals with the pollution issues including acid mine drainage. Among others is the Olifants River Forum and the Olifants, Limpopo, Luvuvhu and Letaba Water and Inkomati Environment Forum. The Department in its authorisation of the mines, requires mines to provide short, medium and long term water management strategies, with regard to the management of the operation and the mines and this is controlled through a framework called the Integrated Waste and Water Management Plan and this is reviewed and updated annually. The Department also has a plan to ensure that all unauthorised water users are speedily authorised with water use licenses and this is done through the Departmental Letsema Project.

The Department has refurbished the Brugspruit acid mine drainage neutralisation plant during March 2011 and is currently operational. The treated water is discharged into Brugspruit (the stream) to improve the water quality of the river.

(1)(b) The Olifants River Forum has initiated a multi-disciplinary study project managed by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to look at the overall sources of pollution in the Olifants River catchment and the report will have recommendations of how the problems will be mitigated. The Department is part of this initiative to support and guide where necessary.

The medium to long term plan is to ensure that, polluted water is being prevented to enter the natural streams. This plan recommends reclaiming this polluted water, purifying it and distributing the potable water to adjacent communities.

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