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water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Enquiries: Dr Ruiters
Telephone: 012 336 7305
Reference: S.4/2/1

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 3111 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above question asked by Mr G R Morgan (DA) is attached for your consideration.

ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 31/10/11

Enrol + Elsbree
DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

Type Amended version and send it through to Parliament

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

DATE: 20/11/103

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 3111

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 14 OCTOBER 2011
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 31)

3111. Mr G R Morgan (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) (a) What is the expected date of completion of phase 2 of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP), (b) why is there a need for phase 2 of the LHWP and (c) what is the (i) expected number of Basothos that will need to be relocated and (ii) the extent of the landmass that will be covered by phase 2 of the LHWP;
- (2) whether there are measures in place to ensure good governance in (a) the awarding of tenders and (b) project management; if not, what steps will be taken to rectify the situation in each case; if so, what are the relevant details in each case;
- (3) whether she has been informed that a certain person (name furnished), who has been convicted by a Lesotho court for accepting bribes during phase 1 of the LHWP, has recently been appointed by the Lesotho Highlands Commission and will be involved in phase 2 of the LHWP; if so, what is the position in this regard; if not,
- (4) whether she will investigate the matter? NW3635E

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REPLY:

- (1)(a) The expected date of completion of Phase 2 of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) is July 2020.
- (1)(b) Phase 2 of the LHWP is required to provide sufficient water resources to augment the Vaal River system which supplies Gauteng and the surrounding areas. The implementation of Phase 2 will therefore ensure continued water availability for these socio-economically growing areas from the Vaal System to meet current and projected demands at adequate assurance of supply until about 2045.
- (1)(c)(i) The feasibility study identified about 2 550 people from 17 villages that may need to be relocated. The Lesotho government has handled this kind of a project before when Katse Dam was constructed and we are confident that even in this instance they will handle it with the necessary duty and care.
- (1)(c)(ii) The extent of the landmass that will be covered by Phase 2 of the LHWP is 5 040 hectares.
- (2)(a) There are existing measures in place to ensure good governance such as the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority's Procurement Policy and the Anti-Corruption Policy that is currently being considered by stakeholders such as the World Bank, the Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA), the Lesotho Attorney General's office, the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) and the Lesotho Highlands Water Commission (LHWC).

Both Cabinets of South Africa and Lesotho have ensured that there is an inclusion of a clause that ensures anti-corruption and good governance, in the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding for this development.

In addition, the LHWC will establish an independent oversight body that will be responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of all the procurement processes regarding the project.

- (2)(b) The LHDA is in the process of appointing a Project Management Unit (PMU) that will be responsible for the implementation of Phase 2. The PMU is expected to be in place by January 2012.
- (3) Yes, I was informed of such an appointment. I have raised objection on the matter with the Minister responsible for water affairs in Lesotho, who acts on behalf of the Lesotho government. We have also sought a comprehensive legal opinion that also backs our objection. The Lesotho government has later reconsidered this appointment which they had made. The latest information I have received is that the Lesotho Cabinet has since decided to remove the said incumbent from any involvement with LHDA and LHWC. They have however, also been given a copy of our legal opinion which they will study for purposes of informing their State Law office in Lesotho.
- (4) There is no need to investigate the matter as it has already been processed.

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