



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

EdST

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS


NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 3176 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above mentioned question asked by Mrs C Dudley (ACDP) is attached for your consideration.

ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE:

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED^{1 QS} / AMENDED


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

DATE: 20/11/12

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 3176

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 21 OCTOBER 2011
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 33)

3176. Mrs C Dudley (ACDP) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether her department intends relocating the Inkomati Catchment Management Authority (ICMA) head office to another building in Nelspruit; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the reasons for the move which will incur increased expenditure;
- (2) whether she has found that it would be more cost effective for the ICMA to remain in its current location and to negotiate for upgrades with the Landlord rather than to move to a new location where additional costs for tenant installations will be required; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether she has considered concerns regarding the new building being further from bus and taxi ranks, requiring staff to spend more time travelling to and from work; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) whether, with reference to the directives from the office of the President regarding overspending on grandiose buildings or unnecessary relocations, she has found that this additional expenditure will impact on allocations to services delivery to low income and poverty areas; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

- (1) The department did not have a role to play in the decision of the Inkomati Catchment Management Agency (ICMA) to relocate their head office to another building in Nelspruit. In terms of the National Water Act, the day-to-day administration and general management of the Inkomati Catchment Management Agency (ICMA) is the purview of the management and leadership of the ICMA which is accountable to the Governing Board of ICMA. The Governing Board, which also accounts to the Minister, took a resolution to look for more suitable office space and as such invited public tenders or bids for the provision of office space over a five year term.

The reasons for seeking more suitable office accommodation are *inter alia*:

- The current lease expired in July 2011;
- The existing staff has increased by 26 new entrants, since July 2011 due to further delegated functions, among other reasons;
- The current office space does not meet the requirements of the ICMA in many respects such as insufficient security, parking space and maintenance of common areas. The ablution facilities are also not adequate in terms of hygiene and access by disabled persons;
The carport was damaged by a storm more than six months ago, and is still not repaired;

- The current office space does not have appropriate storage, records and archive space/facilities.
- (2) As stated in paragraph one above, the relocation was not only about the cost. The shortcomings referred to in paragraph one above of the current building were raised with the landlord but were never resolved. Furthermore, with the increase in the staff complement of the ICMA, the current office space would not have been adequate anyway.
 - (3) The new building is within the central business district of Nelspruit and is within walking distance from the bus terminus and taxi ranks as well as from the current office space. The difference in time to walk between the new office space and bus terminus and taxi ranks does not differ by more than five minutes. Busses do pass the new office space as well.
 - (4) There is no overspending by the ICMA in this regard and the relocation is necessary for reasons outlined in paragraph (1) above. It is also important to mention that ICMA would be paying the same rates as Statistics SA who have also recently relocated to the same new building. As the latest annual report and strategic plans submitted by the ICMA indicate, the ICMA is rendering cost effective water resource management services.

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