



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

[edke]

Enquiries: Ms T Sigwaza
Telephone: 012 336 6600
Reference: 2/1/5/1

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 3257 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above question asked by Mr D A Kganare (Cope) is attached for your consideration.

[Handwritten signature] as requested.

ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 7/11/2011

^{as}
DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

Enrol - Amend & send in.

[Handwritten signature]
MRS B E E MOLEWA, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DATE: 20/11/11

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 3257

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

3257. Mr D A Kganare (Cope) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether the South African Municipal Workers Union of the Free State informed her of allegations of tender irregularities at Bloem Water; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so,
- (2) whether she will investigate the allegations; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether she has been informed that as a result of interaction between some shop stewards and her advisor, these shop stewards has since been suspended; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) whether she intends taking any steps to protect these whistle blowers; if not, why not; if so, what steps;
- (5) whether she will make a statement on the matter? NW3873E

---0000---

REPLY:

- (1) Yes, a letter was received from the South African Municipal Workers Union (SAMWU) containing various allegations of mismanagement and corruption at Bloem Water.
- (2) I am in the process of appointing an independent auditor to investigate the allegations by SAMWU. The copy of the terms of reference will be submitted to me for approval before the auditor is appointed.
- (3) The shop stewards of SAMWU were suspended, charged and subsequently dismissed following internal disciplinary hearings. The charges were unrelated to the interaction with my advisor. Whistle blower protection is embodied in government policy.
- (4) All whistleblowers, irrespective of whether they are SAMWU shop stewards or not, must and will be protected if we want to win the war on corruption. If the whistle blower requires protection it will be provided according to Government regulations.
- (5) No, it must still be established whether the allegations by SAMWU can be substantiated. An appropriate decision to issue a statement or not will be based on the outcome of the investigations.

---0000---