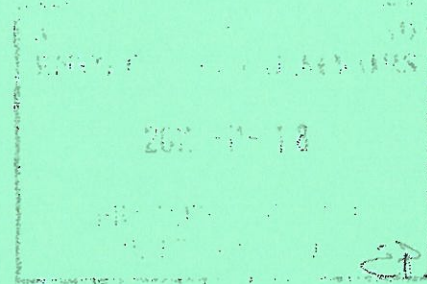




water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



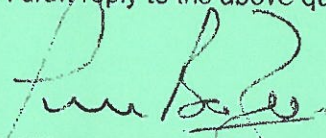
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Enquiries: P Makhanya
Telephone: 012 336 8798
Reference: 6/2/2/6

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

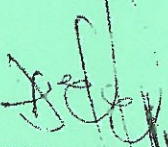
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 3504 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above question by Mr X Mabasa (ANC) is attached for your consideration.


ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 17/11/2011

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/~~AMENDED~~


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

DATE: 20/11/2011

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 3504

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 11 NOVEMBER 2011
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 38)

3504. Mr X Mabasa (ANC) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

Whether there are any measures in place to ensure that rivers are kept clean so that it may be used by all living creatures; if not, why not; if so, what measures?

NW4199E

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REPLY:

Chapter 3 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) sets out measures to be undertaken to ensure the protection of water resources within the context of sustainable use. To this end, the Department is in the process of classifying water resources in the Vaal, Olifants, Olifants-Doorn and Crocodile (West) Marico Water Management Areas. The determination of classes in these four Water Management Areas and the setting of the corresponding Resource Quality Objectives will ensure that the required level of protection for these water resources is determined to facilitate a balance between protection and use of water resources in these Water Management Areas.

In addition, the Recommended Ecological Condition for many of the major river systems has been determined at different levels of confidence to define the required water quality, quantity and habitat specifications for these water resources as an indication of optimal functioning of ecosystems to support ecological goods, services and attributes of water resources. These specifications are incorporated into water use licenses as a proactive measure to prevent further degradation of water resources such as rivers, wetlands and groundwater.

To create public capacity, environmental awareness and get stakeholders involved in the management of their own water resources, the Department has initiated the Adopt-a-River Programme with the following objectives:

- To create an understanding among all water users and in particular the previously marginalised communities, of the concepts of Integrated Water Resources Management and to encourage them to become actively involved in the protection and management of these water resources;
- To empower all users of water to protect water resources and participate in water resource management;
- To facilitate the involvement of patrons and sponsors in stakeholder empowerment and resource management strategies;
- To ensure optimum efficiency, through the involvement and linkages with other existing programmes and initiatives of water resource initiatives; and
- To create awareness around river clean-ups and other environmental caring projects.

The Adopt-a-River Programme which was launched by the Deputy Minister in March 2010, has so far ensured the clean-up of the following rivers:

Province	RIVERS
Eastern Cape	Buffalo, Mthatha and Baakens
Free State	Wilge
Gauteng	Kaalspruit and Juksei
KwaZulu-Natal	Isipingo
Limpopo	Livuvhu, Tshifokofokofo and Makula
Mpumalanga	Bergvlam, Kanyamazane and Bushbuck Ridge
Northern Cape	Harts
Western Cape	Eerste, Khayaletu and Lotus

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