



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION ★54 FOR ORAL REPLY

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

[Signature]
ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 15/06/2011.

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/~~AMENDED~~ *as amended* ✓ Done: 28/06/11

See overleaf

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

DATE: 26.6.2011

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR ORAL REPLY

QUESTION NO ★54

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 13 JUNE 2011
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 16)

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

- (1) What is the current status of the Government's response to the acid mine drainage in the (a) western, (b) central and (c) eastern basins;
- (2) whether the recommendations in the report entitled Mine Water Management in the Witwatersrand Goldfields with special emphasis on acid mine drainage have been fully costed; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? NO1762E

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REPLY:

- (1)(a) With regard to the implementation programme which we have begun embarking upon in dealing with the issue of the acid mine drainage, particularly in the area of the Western Basin, we would like to indicate that we have begun with the implementation of the immediate solution that will reduce or even completely eradicate the surface decant in these Basin

A process has been embarked upon of ensuring that there is a due diligences review undertaken by one of our institution known as the Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA). This work will actually have a final production of this business plan on 7 July 2011, upon which we will then be able to take further work forward with regard to actual tangible implementation of dealing with this very difficult challenge of acid mine drainage.

- (1)(b) In the Central Basin, the implementation of a solution that will also prevent the underground mine water level in reaching the environmental critical level, is also recommended in the report. Once again, TCTA is also dealing with that analysis and the due diligence in that area.
- (1)(c) In the Eastern Basin, the implementation of a solution that will prevent the underground mine water level, reaching the environmental critical level is also recommended. In this regard, our department is monitoring the rate of mine water rise in the Eastern Basin on a continuous basis. We are also in contact with the liquidators that are currently busy at that mine as we know that it's currently under liquidation. As a matter of fact we may indicate that there is actually a meeting between the liquidators and our officials tomorrow to address this matter.
- (2) On the question about a fully costed funding, yes, indeed as we go on we believe that there will be a need to cost this exercise further. But for now, we are certain that the costing for this financial year that has been done on an amount of R225 million will help us deal with this problem. For the following year 2012-13, a guess estimate figure has also been looked at. But, we can now guess that the final figure for these three basins will require something more than a billion rand. Definitely, it will depend on the solutions that are proposed.

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