



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



EdST

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 2461 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

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

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 16/09/2012

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DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

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

DATE: 2012/09/18

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 2461

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 07 SEPTEMBER 2012
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 29)

2461. Mr G R Morgan (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether there are any formal arrangements or protocols that govern intergovernmental relations between (a) the Government, (b) Botswana, (c) Zimbabwe and (d) Mozambique with regard to drawing water from the Limpopo River; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether, with reference to the granting of a water use licence to the Vele Colliery in Limpopo, any neighboring countries were consulted with regard to the proposed (a) use and (b) discharge of water from the mine; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

- (1) Yes. There is an agreement between the Republic of South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique regarding the Limpopo water basin management which is about the establishment of the Limpopo Water Commission signed in Maputo on 23 November 2003 by the Republic of South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. However, this agreement does not encompass the drawing of water from the Limpopo River.
- (2)(a) The neighboring countries were not consulted with regard to the granting of a water use licence to the Vele Colliery in the Limpopo Province. The proposed use of water from the Limpopo River by the Vele Colliery was not a new allocation but transfer of an existing allocation. Furthermore, there is no legislative or agreement that requires consultation of water basin member states.
- (2)(b) The mine operates a close system and no discharge was authorised.

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