



## water affairs

Department:  
Water Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



EdST

Enquiries: M Keet  
Telephone: 012 392 1306  
Reference: 6/2/2/6

### MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

#### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1005 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: 03/05/2012

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

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

DATE: 2012/05/03

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1005

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 26 APRIL 2012  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 10)

**1005. Mr G R Morgan (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:**

- (1) Whether, with reference to her replies to question 872 on 5 May 2010, question 1442 on 25 May 2010, question 2086 on 18 August 2010 and question 45 on 15 March 2011, a charge sheet has been submitted to the National Prosecuting Authority for prosecution, if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details,
- (2) whether any further directives have been issued against the mine since 28 April 2010; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) (a) on what date was the last inspection of the mine conducted by officials of her department and (b) what are the (i) names and (ii) designations of all officials who visited the mine;
- (4) (a) what is the current level of mine water below the surface of the mine and (b) at what rate is it rising;
- (5) whether steps are being taken by the Department of Water to ensure that there is no decant of acid mine water at the mine or in neighboring locality, if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

NW1186E

---0000---

**REPLY:**

- (1) Yes, a charge sheet was submitted to the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA). After reviewing the charge sheet, the NPA requested that certain elements should be further investigated and the docket has since been returned to the South African Police Services (SAPS) for further investigation. The Department of Water Affairs (the Department) continues to work closely with the NPA and SAPS. The matter is currently *sub judice*.
- (2) No further directives were issued against the Grootvlei Mine since 28 April 2010 as the mine was non-operational and under liquidation. Since the mine was issued with a directive during active operations and to which there was no response, the Department commenced with the enforcement process that is invoked when a directive is contravened. This has resulted in a criminal case being opened against the mine.
- (3) Table 1 below indicates the date, names and designations of officials who conducted the last inspection at the Grootvlei Mine:

**Table 1: Names of officials and their designations**

(a) Date	(b)(i) Name of official	(b)(ii) Designation
18 April 2012	Name furnished	Assistant Director: Water Quality Management
18 April 2012	Name furnished	Environmental Officer

- (4)(a) Based on recent mine water level monitoring by the Department at a nearby operational mine shaft, the water level below the surface at the Grootvlei Mine is 588 metres.
- (4)(b) The rate of rise over the last five months averages at 0.31 metres per day.
- (5) Yes, part of the short-term interventions for the mine water management in the Witwatersrand entails the prevention of underground mine water at the Grootvlei Mine (Eastern Basin) from reaching the environmental critical level and decanting. Based on a review of the current situation and acting under my mandate as the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, the Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority is in the process of recommending a short-term engineering solution that will protect the environmental critical level in the Eastern Basin.

In addition, a feasibility study investigating the long-term management of the acid mine water at the Grootvlei Mine is in progress. Some facets of the study include assessment of technology options for the mine water treatment, suitable institutional and financial models, end-use of treated water, regulatory and legal issues, waste management and stakeholder consultation.

---0000---





MINISTER  
WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X313, Pretoria, 0001, 185 Schoeman Street, Sedibeng Building, Tel: +27 12 336 8733, Fax: +27 12 336 8717  
Private Bag X9052, Cape Town, 8000, 120 Plein Street, Tel: +27 21 464 1500, Fax: +27 21 465 3362

Reference: 6/2/2/6

**By Fax: 021 461 0092**

Questions Office  
Parliament  
P O Box 15  
**CAPE TOWN**  
8000

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1005 FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

In response to your National Assembly question 1005, below are names and designations of officials who conducted the last inspection to the Grootvlei Mine:

No	Date of visit	Names of employee	Designations of employee
1	18 April 2012	Mr Phillimon Khwinana	Assistant Director: Water Quality Management
2	18 April 2012	Ms Phyllis Maphakela	Environmental Officer

Yours sincerely

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

DATE: 2012/05/03