



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



EdST

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1424 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above question asked by Mrs M Wenger (DA) is attached for your consideration.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 04/06/2012

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED^{os}/AMENDED

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

DATE: 2012/06/05

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1424

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 01 JUNE 2012
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 15)

1424. Mrs M Wenger (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (a) What corrective action will be taken to ensure that municipalities who did not achieve Blue Drop Status do so, (b) what time lines are in place to give effect to this corrective action plan and (c) what plans are in place to find alternative implementing agents if municipalities cannot comply with the corrective action plans?

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REPLY:

- (a) The Blue Drop Certification programme is an incentive-based regulation programme which seeks to inspire municipalities to set their targets on levels of excellence rather than minimum requirements. This implies that should a municipality not obtain a good Blue Drop status but the quality of drinking water complies excellently with the National Standards (SANS 241), then there would no need for a corrective action plan even though certification status is not achieved as yet. Records have shown that most municipalities in this category set performance targets for themselves towards the achievement of the Blue Drop Certification status. The Department is already engaging municipalities with the Blue Drop scores of less than 50% (as per 2012 report) to ensure that corrective measures are planned for.

The Department does assist municipalities with corrective planning, allocate limited funding allocation with regards to the Accelerated Community Infrastructure Programme (ACIP), assist with business plan drafting to address shortcomings and provide technical expertise via the Rapid Response Unit (RRU) where so required. However, should negligence or non-commitment be the evident cause, action will be taken in line with enforcement protocol.

- (b) The Department monitors implementation of the various corrective plans and conduct progress assessments. The time lines for rectification differ according to the severity of the specific shortcomings identified during the Blue Drop audits, and responses by the relevant municipalities.
- (c) I support the principle that municipalities that cannot comply with corrective plans must contract water boards or private sector water providers, but the final decision rests with the municipalities.

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