



## water affairs

Department:  
Water Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

EdST

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**MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1822 FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

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

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

DATE: 08/08/2012

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/~~AMENDED~~

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

DATE: 2012/08/13

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1822

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 27 JULY 2012  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 20)

1822. Mrs M Wenger (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether she intends to initiate any steps against the Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality for failing to provide Carolina residents with a reliable supply of potable water; if not, why not; if so, what steps will she take;
- (2) whether she intends laying criminal charges against municipal officials in respect of water services; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? NW2214E

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REPLY:

- (1) At this stage, the Department does not intend to take any steps against the Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality, however, the Department has made the following interventions since day one when we, as a Department, determined that the water in Carolina was unsafe for drinking; in order to provide the Carolina residents with reliable supply of potable water:
  - Utilised the Rapid Response Unit to assist with the upgrading of the Carolina Water Treatment Plant.
  - Supported the Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality by supplying potable water through water tankers to cart water into the affected areas.
  - Placed the Jo-Jo water tanks at strategic points for effective water supply/distribution and the Rapid Response Unit intervention is continuing.
  - Replaced the JoJo water tanks that were damaged during the Carolina unrests.
  - Installed sand filter package plant to assist with enhancing water quality.
  - Five contract workers were appointed as Process Controllers to maintain sustainability with processing at the Carolina Water Treatment Plant.
  - The Inkomati Catchment Management Agency undertook intensive involvement in the catchment of the Carolina/Boesmanspruit Dam to stabilise the situation.

According to the latest analytical results provided by the Mpumamanzi Laboratory Services, some of the following observations and interpretations have been made:

- The results show drastic improvement in the raw water quality of the Boesmanspruit Dam;
  - All treatment processes are functioning satisfactorily with removal efficiencies. The Module A (Old plant) is currently performing much better than the Module B (package plant) and particularly in terms of Aluminium removal and the reverse is true for manganese removal;
  - The Mpumamanzi took the liberty to analyse the microbial status of the final water and both E.coli and Total Coliform results are zero; and
  - All the results are within the Class I water quality standards as prescribed by the Department (through the SANS 241: 2006 water quality standards).
- (2) The Department is not in a position to lay any criminal charge against the municipal officials because such is not provided in terms of the existing Water Service Legislation. The Department is however, working with the Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipality to ensure that the water quality is within the limits of the South African National Standards (SANS 241) drinking water standards.