



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



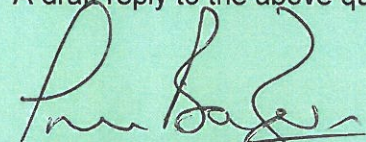
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Reference: 16/2/1/1

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 2684 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

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

Act

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 3/10/2012

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED ^{as}



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

DATE: 2012/10/07

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 2684

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 21 SEPTEMBER 2012
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 31)

2684. Mrs M Wenger (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether, since her reply to question 2115 on 29 August 2012, the Department of Water Affairs has made any progress in rectifying the noncompliance at the mine; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether, since the specified reply, any part of the (a) pan and (b) wetlands on the mine site has been mined; if not, how was this conclusion reached; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether, since the specified reply, officials from her department have conducted any inspections of the mining site; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) whether the Water Tribunal has met to hear the appeal lodged by the mine against the directive issued by her department; if not, why not; if so what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

- (1) As indicated in question 2115 on 29 August 2012, the Department conducted an investigation on 20 June 2012 and noted that the machinery used for mining through the wetland/pan was removed and mining was only taking place towards the North to the tarred road within the boundary of the mining area. The Department held a meeting with the mine management on 30 August 2012 and the mine confirmed that, the mining activities within the pan have ceased. As part of the Department's audit processes, the site visit has been scheduled for a date that can't be disclosed, but will be soon, in order to verify if indeed the mining activities within the pan has ceased.
- (2) Falls away.
- (3) Falls away.
- (4) As per my elaborate response given on the functionality of the Water Tribunal, the Water Tribunal has not met because the operations of the Water Tribunal have been put in abeyance in light of the fact that, the term of office of the members of the Water Tribunal came to an end in August 2012. As a result, I approved the implementation of section 150 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) for mediation and negotiations to resolve the disputes on appeal in the Water Tribunal as an interim measure.

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