



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

EdST

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES: QUESTION ★44 FOR ORAL REPLY

A draft reply to the above question asked by Mr W F Faber (DA-NC) is attached for your consideration.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE:

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

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

DATE:

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR ORAL REPLY

QUESTION NO ★44

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 08 MAY 2012
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 11)

★44. Mr W F Faber (DA-NC) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether any municipalities in the Eastern Cape owe any outstanding amounts for water that is being supplied by (a) other municipalities and/or (b) any water service authorities; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (i) which municipalities, (ii) to which entities do they owe funds, (iii) what are the reasons for these outstanding accounts and (iv) for how long have these accounts been outstanding in each case;
- (2) Whether the institutions which are providing this water to municipalities are allowed to terminate the supply if the accounts are not paid; if not, what steps can be taken to recover the outstanding debt; if so, what is the relevant legislation that is applicable in this regard?

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REPLY:

- (1) The Department through its Regional Office in the Eastern Cape is not aware of any outstanding amounts for water that is being supplied by other municipalities and if the Honourable Member is aware of any such cases, it should be brought to my attention for any follow up.
- (2) Yes, according to the Water Services Act, Act No. 108, of 1997, a water institution such as a municipality that provides water to other municipalities may limit or discontinue services once creditors have been met as set out in Section 4 (5) of the Water Services Act 108, of 1997. all Water Boards have the right to limit or terminate the water supply to its clients if the accounts are not paid and all the negotiations to recover the debt have been exhausted. I also have the right to issue a directive for the Water Boards not to discontinue the water supply until I have had the time to meet with the Mayors of those municipalities to find a solution to the payment of outstanding debts.

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