



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



EdST

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 686 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above question asked by Mr J J van der Linde (DA) is attached for your consideration.

W. Molewa

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 23/03/2012

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

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

DATE: 2012/03/26

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Enrol ① please amend and send through.
② Copy this to Mava for our statement.
③ Hold on to this but amend, so that we discuss as I have at 10h00 (26th March) in JHB.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 686

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 16 MARCH 2012
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 08)

686. Mr J J van der Linde (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether the Department of Water Affairs is providing any assistance to the Hoedspruit community in Maruleng Municipality which has been without water or in receipt of poor quality water since the floods affected the operation of the water treatment works on 18 January 2012; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) what has she found to be the reason why the Department of Public Works is the licensed operator of the treatment works for Hoedspruit town and not the local municipality or district municipality;
- (3) whether the Department of Water Affairs is providing any assistance to the local or district municipality to construct an entirely new water treatment facility; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

- (1) In line with our usual consistent intervention mechanism that is driven by our given commitment to have quality of water delivered to our people, we noted the damages caused by the floods in the Drakensig Water Treatment Works. As part of the key stakeholders participating in the Joint Operation Committee, the Department, swiftly deployed five Water Quality Technicians to assist in analysis of (the physical, chemical and bacteriological) quality of water and its supply area within the whole of the Maruleng Local Municipality. In addition, the Department availed two Community Development Officers to conduct awareness about water related diseases to farmers and community members.

As the area is set to receive disaster funding, the Mopani District Municipality as the water services authority responsible for the provision of water and sanitation services in the Maruleng Municipal area, is providing water tanks as a short term solution and drilling of 12 boreholes as a medium term solution. Other interventions such as the construction of an elevated tank and pipeline are also planned as part of the measures to improve sustainable water supply.

- (2) The Drakensig Water Treatment Works as well as the Drakensig Military Base buildings were constructed (as a package) by the Department of Public Works during 1974 solely for the supply of water to the Military Base hence the license was issued to them as owners of the plant. However, due to the establishment of the Hoedspruit area, the water treatment works also supplies water to the local community.

The Mopani District Municipality has acquired land for the construction of a new water treatment works which (as at 2008) was estimated to cost R62 million. However, in order for the funding of the water treatment works to be considered, a thorough planning process will have to be undertaken amongst which include (a) conducting of a feasibility study (b) application of a water use license for abstraction, depending on the outcomes of the feasibility study (c) compilation of a technical report which the Department will assess as part of the appraisal process and finally (d) the registration of the project under the Municipal Infrastructure Grant funding.

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