



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Enquiries: MM Senne
Telephone: 012-336-6906
Reference: 2/1/5/1

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 2428 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

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


DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 3/10/2013

^{yes}
DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/~~AMENDED~~


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

DATE: 2013/10/04

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 2428

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 20 SEPTEMBER 2013
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 31)

2428. Mrs M Wenger (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) (a) What percentage of dams are eutrophic and (b) what management studies are currently being done by her department to prevent eutrophication of dams;
- (2) what is her department's estimates with regard to the eutrophication of dams in the future;
- (3) whether there is a lack of researchers on the eutrophication of dams; if so, what is being done to ensure the correct number of researchers?

NW2913E

---0000---

REPLY:

- (1)(a) 5% of the dams are eutrophic.
- (1)(b) The Water Research Commission has funded a number of eutrophication management studies – which was initiated based on the outcomes of the National Eutrophication Monitoring Programme (NEMP). The Department was involved on a technical and supporting basis in these projects. The most recent amongst others are:
 - Biomanipulation Project: to determine the potential impact of fish-harvesting on improving eutrophication conditions.

- (2) The NEMP indicates that the current trend can result in an increase to 15% of dams with eutrophication.

The Department is currently busy with remedial activities on some of the dams that are currently in eutrophic states e.g. Hartbeespoort Dam Integrated Biological Remediation Programme (Harties Metsi a me). Further, the Department is strengthening the regulatory function to prevent discharges that do not meet the required limits with the objective of minimizing conditions that are conducive to eutrophication.

- (3) The number of limnologists or water quality scientists etc available for recruitment in general (including eutrophication researchers) remains low. The Department has a very successful Learning Academy, in which science and engineering graduates are provided with on the job training and awarded bursaries for further studies.

---0000---