



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



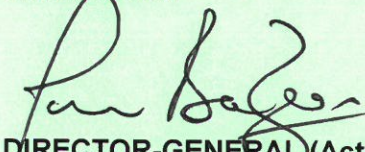
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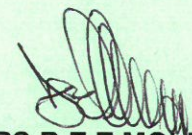
MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 2978 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above mentioned question asked by Mrs C Dudley (ACDP) is attached for your consideration.


DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)
DATE: 2/11/2013

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED⁹⁵/AMENDED


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

DATE: 2013/11/13

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 2978

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 01 NOVEMBER 2013
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 36)

2978. Mrs C Dudley (ACDP) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether she is aware of information indicating that 10% of the 55 million m³ water set aside in Pongolapoort Dam for Umkanyakude Municipality has been allocated for sugarcane irrigation via a certain company (name furnished);
- (2) what (a) impact will this have on rural households and (b) are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

- (1) The Department firstly wish to correct that a Water Use Licence was issued to Zamokuhle Trust and not Quamakuhle. The Department issued a water use licence to Zamokuhle Trust on 10 October 2013, to abstract a total volume of 5 58 million m³ of water per annum from the Pongolapoort Dam for the purpose of irrigating 555 hectares of agricultural crops for a period of 10 years. A further condition is that this license will be reviewed on a five year basis.

The Department has not received a complete Water Use License Application from the Umkhanyakude District Municipality (DM). The Department has not committed to setting aside un-allocated water from the Pongolapoort Dam to the DM, however priority will be given to domestic use application. The Department has engaged the DM to prioritise their still to be submitted application for a Water Use Licence, which will be completed by 30 November 2013.

- (2) Regarding the impact on rural households, the Department is assisting the Umkhanyakude (DM) with the provision of water services through the funding of the bulk component of the Jozini – Ingwavuma (Pongolapoort) Water Supply Project Phase 1. The project was initiated by the Provincial Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) and in February 2008 the Mhlathuze Water was appointed as Implementing Agent for the scheme. The appointment was for the planning, design, and construction of all components of the scheme, to be undertaken in a phased manner over a number of years, based on priorities within the area and the availability of funding.

The Department began co-funding the first phase of the project from the Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant (RBIG) in 2011/12. The estimated cost of the total scheme is R 1 457 million. To date CoGTA has contributed R74.5 million and the Department has utilized R68.3 million under the RBIG funding to the end of March 2013.

Due to the large backlogs in the area the project was included in a bid to National Treasury for additional funding in November 2012 and R150 million and R350 million additional funding was allocated to the Umkhanyakude DM for the 2013/14 and 2014/15 years respectively.

The project aims to ultimately supply potable water to a population of 134,000 people (approximately 16,200 households) and the first phase comprises of raw water abstraction from the Pongolapoort Dam, installation of a package water treatment plant, development of a new 40 Ml/day treatment plant, bulk mains, storage reservoirs and distribution networks at a cost of R430 million. Contracts in the initial Phase 1:1 were by and large completed successfully and within schedule and budget however, progress has been hampered in Phase 1:2 by the liquidation of one of the main contractors and the termination of 3 others due to poor performance. The Department is working with the IA and the WSA to ensure that the project can be fast tracked to ensure effective utilisation of the additional funding that was secured.

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