



## water affairs

Department:  
Water Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



EdCM

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### MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

#### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 3035 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: 15/11/2013

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/~~AMENDED~~

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

DATE: 20/11/2013

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 3035

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 08 NOVEMBER 2013  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 37)

**3035. Mrs C Dudley (ACDP) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:**

- (1) Whether her department has been informed that no water is reaching Middelburg from the Klein Olifants River, the town's main water supply;
- (2) whether her department has investigated the situation; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether her department has investigated the concerns of the local people who suspect that mining activities and farmers are blocking the water supply upstream in the Klein Olifants River; if not,
- (4) whether her department will investigate the claim? NW3529E

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**REPLY:**

- (1) Yes, the Department is aware of the sub catchment which is stressed upstream Middelburg Dam.
- (2) Investigations were done by the Department from 7 to 11, 21 to 25 and 28 to 31 October 2013, and revealed that there is not enough water flowing into the Middelburg Dam. As part of the process, the Department has published a restriction notice in the Government Gazette notice no. 685 in September 2013.

With recent rains over the last two weeks of October 2013, a gradual increase in flow into the dam has been observed resulting in a marginal water level gain of more than one percent.

- (3) The Department has investigated the claims however no evidence of physical blocking of water has been observed. Further compliance investigations are underway.
- (4) The Department is consulting with the water users in the catchment, especially the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, on an ongoing basis until the situation normalises.

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