



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS


NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION ★81 FOR ORAL REPLY

A draft reply to the above question asked by Mrs D R Tsotetsi (ANC) is attached for your consideration.


DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 8/03/2013

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED 


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

DATE: 2013/03/10

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR ORAL REPLY

QUESTION NO ★81

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 05 MARCH 2013
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 05)

★81. Mrs D R Tsotetsi (ANC) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Is the Water Sector Support Coordinating Unit, which is meant to assist local government structures with water quality and pollution issues, still operational; if so, how is this unit assisting the Department of Water Affairs to address the ongoing challenges of water quality in many parts of the country;
- (2) can the Department of Water Affairs provide (a) data on the many service strikes relating to water issues since 1 January 2010 and (b) detail on how the department assisted local government to address these? NO452E

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REPLY:

- (1) The Water Sector Support Coordinating Unit is no longer operational. It has been replaced by a Rapid Response Unit (RRU). The objective of the RRU is to respond to both emergencies and potential crises within the water sector covering a broad spectrum of problem areas that may occur along the water value chain. An Implementation Note setting out the scope, guiding principles, modus operandi, governance and programme management was signed by myself as the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs on 28 July 2011. A decentralised RRU model has been conceptualised and operationalised from April 2012, with the contracts and business plans being implemented by Water Boards already put in place in eight (8) Regional Offices of the Department in order to perform this function.
- (2)(a) The Department does not directly monitor service delivery strikes relating to water issues, however, the Department has subscribed to a service entitled municipal Intelligence Quotient (IQ) which monitors water service related protest action. The Department plots the water service related protest action spatially on an annual basis or on specific requests, and this information is made available to the Department's Regional Offices. The information is available for (i) 2010, (ii) 2011 and (iii) 2012. In parallel to the municipal IQ monitoring, the Regional Offices monitor hotspot areas on a monthly basis and these are categorised as reactive or proactive. Proactive interventions are aimed at pre-empting crises before they occur, and reactive interventions respond to water service delivery protests.
- (2)(b) The Department has set up a Rapid Response Unit to support municipalities to respond to service delivery strikes relating to water. A total number of 33 reactive interventions were actioned and tracked during 2012. The Accelerated Community Infrastructure Programme

(ACIP) is utilised to address short to medium term infrastructure intervention, and the Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant Programme (RBIG) is utilised to address medium to long term infrastructure interventions.

The Department has provided technical solutions to deal with the lack of water in Colesberg; drinking water quality failures in Carolina, water supply crisis in Sekhukhune, reliability of water supply in Ngobi, water supply challenges in Ermelo, Wesseton, Eshowe and Ratlou. The Department also intervened in Marquard to provide interim measures such as boreholes, water tankers and jojo tanks. The Department has provided support to 36 Municipalities to improve water conservation and water demand management; 62 Municipalities to improve their blue drop scores and 66 municipalities to improve their green drop scores.

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