



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



NCOF 84

EdTM

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS


NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES: QUESTION 84 FOR ORAL REPLY

A draft reply to the above question asked by Hon. Ms A N D Qikani (MP) (ANC-EC) is attached for your consideration.


DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 3/05/2013


DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED


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

DATE: 2013/05/10

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR ORAL REPLY

QUESTION NO 84

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 25 APRIL 2013

Whether any progress has been made regarding the proposed changes to the National Water Resource Strategy, what are her department's plans in this regard; if so, what progress?

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REPLY:

- (i) The draft National Water Resource Strategy 2 (NWRS2) strategy was published on the Government Gazette on the 7th of September 2012. The public consultations were open for a period of more than 90 days and good progress is being made to evaluate all these comments and revise the draft so as to prepare it for submission to Cabinet.

The Portfolio Committee on Water and Environment held hearings on the draft NWRS2, where several public and private sector organisations provided their comments. In addition the Department held formal consultation sessions in each Province, (in some Provinces there were several consultations). People were encouraged to provide comments in their language of choice and translations into English were made. In addition to these provincial consultations bilateral meetings were held with key water sector stakeholders and as said in (i), the Department is currently in the process of redrafting the strategy based on comments and inputs received.

The following stakeholders were engaged and they provided written and/or verbal submissions:

- Several groups and organisations at the Portfolio Committee hearings
- Interdepartmental workshop: (Department of Agriculture Forestry & Fisheries, Land Affairs & Rural Development, Department of Mineral Energy, Economic Development, Human Settlements)
- Media: Two Mail & Guardian "Critical Thinking Forums", various publications, advertisements and announcements targeting all levels of media – national, regional, local and communities
- Bilateral meetings with:
 - National Planning Commission
 - Civil Society: South African Water Caucus, Green Peace, etc.
 - Specialist Fora: National Water Advisory Committee, Water Sector Leadership Group
 - Agriculture: AgriSA, National Agricultural Farmers Union (NAFU)
 - Business sector: Business Unity South Africa (BUSA), Black Management Forum (BMF), Strategic Water Partnership Network (SWP) & Industry Water Task Team of SA (IWTTSA)
 - Finance institutions, including banks, insurance companies
 - Mining sector
 - Energy: ESKOM, Energy Intensive User Group

The Department has considered all the comments received and a comment register has been developed. Currently the Department is in the process of finalising NWRS2 and the final version will be submitted to Cabinet by end of May 2013.

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