



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



NA 2372

EdTM

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MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 2372 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above mentioned question asked by Ms A T Lovemore (DA) is attached for your consideration.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 22/11/14

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

MRS NP MOKONYANE
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

DATE: 24.11.14

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 2372

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 07 NOVEMBER 2014
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 25)

2372. Ms A T Lovemore (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:

- (1) Whether the Nqweba Dam wall has been identified to be unsafe; if so, (a) when were the findings made, (b) what are the details of the findings and (c) what danger is posed by the specified dam wall;
- (2) (a) when will repairs to the dam wall be carried out, (b) at what cost and (c) at whose cost;
- (3) whether the currently planned repairs will fully address the safety concerns; if not, (a) why not and (b) when will the full risk posed by the unsafe dam wall be addressed?

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REPLY:

- (1)(a) The 2008 Dam Safety Inspection report informed the Camdeboo Local Municipality that the Nqweba Dam was identified as unsafe. The dam was found not to be complying with current stability criteria for concrete gravity dams at full supply level. Due to the risk posed by the dam and the inability of the municipality to do the rehabilitation work accordingly, the Department received ministerial approval (August 2010) to take ownership of the dam and to ensure safety thereof.
- (1)(b) The Department of Water and Sanitation's Dam Safety Surveillance engineers are undertaking detailed analysis which will enable them to properly understand the potential failure mode of Nqweba Dam and design remedial action(s). A summary of the studies is outlined below:
 - Investigate the effect of hydrostatic uplift pressures on the dam wall to determine whether or not full uplift pressures should be included in the stability calculations.
 - A more detailed ground level and silt survey should be done.
 - A geotechnical survey should be done to determine the properties of the foundation.
 - Install more instrumentation to monitor displacements in the dam wall.
- (1)(c) According to the 2008 Dam Safety Inspection report, failure of the dam poses a risk of high potential loss of life.
- (2)(a) The Department is currently monitoring the dam to inform the most appropriate Rehabilitation design. The monitoring results from the instruments will be available next year and the rehabilitation design will commence immediately afterwards with construction scheduled to start in 2016.
- (2)(b) The cost cannot be determined at this stage until the design is finalised.

- (2)(c) The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) will carry the cost under the Dam Safety Rehabilitation Program (DSRP).
- (3)(a) The detailed analysis currently underway will fully address all the dam safety issues at Nqweba Dam.
- (3)(b) Once construction commences (i.e. 2016), it is envisaged to take 18 months to complete and thus address the dam's safety concern.

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