



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



WA 403

EdCM

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Reference: 6/2/2/6

### MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

#### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION ★403 FOR ORAL REPLY

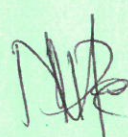
A draft reply to the above mentioned question asked by Mr T Makondo (ANC) is attached for your consideration.



DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 5/11/14

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/~~AMENDED~~



MRS NP MOKONYANE  
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

DATE: 09.11.14



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO ★403

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 04 NOVEMBER 2014  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 24)

**★403. Mr T Makondo (ANC) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:**

With regard to the Auditor-Generals estimated R30 billion that will be needed to clean up acid mine drainage in the existing abandoned mines, what progress is her department making in (a) Westrand and (b) other affected areas to clean up acid mine drainage?

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**REPLY:**

In the absence of information which informed the Auditor-General's estimation of R30 billion required for Acid Mine Drainage remediation in abandoned mines, it is not possible for the Department to provide meaningfully comment.

However, the Department has estimated that an amount of R10 billion is required for Acid Mine Drainage mitigation in the Witwatersrand gold fields. Funding was recently secured with concurrence between the Department and the National Treasury.

- (a) The emergency works component was initiated and currently, a project in the Western (West Rand) Basin is operational. This project involved refurbishment of the Rand Uranium Acid Mine Drainage Treatment Plant in Krugersdorp between December 2011 and May 2012. Since August 2012, the plant accomplished eradication of surface decant with consequential improvement in the water resources of the area that was previously affected by Acid Mine Drainage decant.

An additional refurbishment commenced in October 2014 to increase pumping output of the Plant whilst options to increase treatment capacity are being finalised. This scope of work is projected for completion in June 2015 and is aimed at eliminating sporadic surface decant associated with periods of excessively-high rainfall.

- (b) To avert potential surface decant in the Central Basin of the Witwatersrand gold fields, a major Acid Mine Drainage plant was constructed in Germiston. The plant is currently operational with neutralised AMD being discharged to the Kliprivier.

Construction of a similar plant in the Eastern Basin (Springs) commenced in June 2014 and is projected to be operational in December 2015. Once operations commence, neutralised Acid Mine Drainage will be discharged to the Blesbokspruit.

Pending consensus of my fellow Ministers serving in the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Mine Water Management, I will be hosting a strategic engagement with the relevant stakeholders and key role-players to find a long term solution before the end of November 2014.

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