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water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

EdTM

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MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES: QUESTION ★102 FOR ORAL REPLY

A draft reply to the above mentioned question asked by Dr Y C Vawda (EFF-Mpumalanga) is attached for your consideration.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 10/09/2014

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

**MRS NP MOKONYANE
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION**

DATE: 14.09.14

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR ORAL REPLY

QUESTION NO ★102

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 08 SEPTEMBER 2014
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 11)

★102. Dr Y C Vawda (EFF-Mpumalanga) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:

- (1) Whether the reported coup and unrest in Lesotho will affect the Lesotho Highlands Water supply which South Africa depends on; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether any plans are in place to massively desalinate sea-water for domestic use as the country was identified by the World Resources Institute as one of the most water-stressed countries; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

The Lesotho Highlands water Project is operated in terms of a treaty between the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho and the Republic of South Africa. There has been no impact on the operation of the system as a result of the recent events in Lesotho.

- (1) A strategy on desalination of sea water forms part of the new National Water Resource Strategy published in 2013 (NWRS2). Desalination of sea water on a significant scale is being investigated as options for increasing water supply in the Durban, Cape Town and Saldanha areas. Counting against desalination is the fact that it is energy intensive, thus part of the investigation includes consideration of use of renewal energy to off-set the impact.

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