



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA


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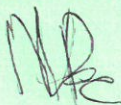
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 2369 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

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


DIRECTOR-GENERAL
DATE: 20/07/16

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED



MRS NP MOKONYANE
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

DATE: 20-07-15

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 2369

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 19 JUNE 2015
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 22)

2369. Ms T E Baker (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:

- (1) With regard to the heavily polluted Olifants River in Mpumalanga, what impact is such pollution having on the wildlife in the Kruger National Park, particularly the aquatic animals living in and dependent on the specified river;
- (2) whether any action has been taken to remedy the situation; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) have any polluting companies been identified; if not, why not; if so, what action has been taken against the specified companies?

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REPLY:

- (1) According to the assessment of the conditions of aquatic animals, there is an impact since there is a deteriorating trend of the animals especially the fish which is used as an indicator for monitoring of river health.
- (2) Yes, action has been taken by the Department to remedy the situation and the following are the steps taken to address pollution around Olifants River;
 - Currently, the Department is monitoring potential polluters for compliance with the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998). In cases of non-compliance action is taken (notices, directives and criminal cases).
 - The Department is also implementing River Health programme in Olifants River.
 - Formation of Departmental task team to deal with pollution in the Olifants River using the existing Olifants, Luvuvhu, Letaba and Inkomati (OLLI) Water Resource and Oversight forum, where Kruger National Park is a member of the forum.
 - There is Olifants River Forum (ORF) conducting research on the sources of pollution and making recommendations for water resource protection.
 - There is a continuous water quality monitoring of the selected sites in the Olifants River to check compliance or impact.
- (3) No, there is no specific or single company that can be attributed to the impact on aquatic ecosystems.

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