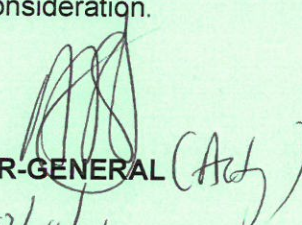EdTM

Enquiries: AB Singh
Telephone: 012 336 7531
Reference: 6/2/2/6

MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES: QUESTION 494 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above mentioned question asked by Mr J W W Julius (Gauteng: DA) is attached for your consideration.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acty)

DATE: 8/11/11

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

MRS NP MOKONYANE
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

DATE: 18 - 11 . 15

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 494

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 30 OCTOBER 2015 (INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 42)

494.   Mr J W W Julius (Gauteng: DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:

Whether she has been informed of the imminent damage posed to the environment by acid mine drainage water in the Western Basin in Gauteng; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, why is the area underfunded when it was the first area identified in Gauteng in September 2002?
CW559E

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REPLY:

Yes, my Department is fully aware of the risks of acid mine drainage (AMD) in the Western Basin (West Rand towns of Krugersdorp and Randfontein). Accordingly, to mitigate such risks, my Department commissioned the Immediate Solution project in Randfontein as an emergency Government waterworks. The Immediate Solution pumps AMD for treatment by neutralisation thereby ensuring that the water discharged to the river is environmentally-acceptable in terms of acidity and metals. The project has demonstrated a significant improvement in ground and surface water, as well as ecological condition of the river system.

The Immediate Solution is certainly not under-funded as both Government and the mining sector has and continues to contribute towards the project. Currently, construction is underway to develop a new pump-station for augmenting the project's functionality. The new pump-station will be operational in the first quarter of 2016. Additionally, complementary measures are also being considered to further optimise the performance of the Immediate Solution project.

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