



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

EdTM

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MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 443 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above mentioned question asked by Ms D Carter (Cope) is attached for your consideration.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 12/06/16

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

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

DATE: 28.06.16

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 443

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 26 FEBRUARY 2016
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 4)

443. Ms D Carter (Cope) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:

- (1) Whether her department was ready to initiate an adequate number of desalination plants, using the latest proven and most cost-effective technology, especially in areas which long term forecasts have indicated will experience water shortage in the foreseeable future; if not, why not; if so, (a) when, (b) where and (c) with or without partners;
- (2) Whether her department will acknowledge Operation Hydrate in an appropriate manner and develop close working relationship with the specified group to ensure clean drinking water for all?

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REPLY:

- (1) My Department encourages measures to extend the available water resources in South Africa which include the utilisation of ground water, re-use of water, rainwater harvesting and desalination of sea water.

The use of desalination of sea water and brackish water as a resource is outlined as an augmentation option for the water resources in all reconciliation studies for coastal areas particularly in important economic hubs, like coastal cities including Durban, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and Richards Bay. In all of these strategies sea water desalination is an important option being considered for implementation by Water Boards and Municipalities, depending on the particular institutional situation in the area. In each case sea water desalination is compared with other water supply options on equal merit, taking economic, strategic, environment and social aspects into account. The Durban area is the most advanced with such an investigation and the final outcome decision making whether to implement a medium sized sea water desalination plant to the south of the city, or to develop conventional water storage close by is expected soon. Experience shows that sea water desalination is becoming more and more economically competitive when compared with other available water resource options and with the comparative advantage of coastal cities having an abundance of sea water available close by, we can expect to see medium to large sea water desalination plants being implemented there in future.

My Department is currently in discussions with various countries to look at cost effective options of desalination which could be applied also in small scale, especially in rural areas wherein alternative energy could be utilised to power these plants. These will be implemented as a pilot and should they prove to be cost effective and efficient, the model for implementation will be decided upon.

- (2) I have noted and acknowledged the humanitarian support that the civil society is playing in distributing drinking water to needy communities across the country. In this regard the effort by Operation Hydrate, Gift of the Givers, Nelson Mandela Foundation and Proudly South Africa, among others, are greatly appreciated. These organisations are most encouraged to work with my Department in continuously monitoring and identifying communities that have been hit the most by the drought, and therefore who can benefit the most from this gesture.

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