



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

2011-04-06
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PRIVATE BAG X313
PRETORIA 0001

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 688 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Dr H C van Schalkwyk (DA); is attached for your consideration.

[Signature]
ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 1/04/2011

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/~~AMENDED~~

[Signature]
MRS B E E MOLEWA, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DATE: 13.04.2011

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 688

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 07 MARCH 2011
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 04)

688. Dr H C van Schalkwyk (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether, with reference to a certain report (details furnished) and to the sections in the report dealing with neutralisation and metal removal from mine water in the short term, lime will be used to treat mine water; if not, why not; if so; (a) how will lime be applied to this large volume of water, (b) how much lime will be required and (c) which entity will apply the lime;
- (2) whether there is sufficient capacity to apply the lime; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) what amount does her department intend to spend on lime treatment in the 2011-2012 financial year;
- (4) whether her department has considered that the use of lime in large quantities may affect the market price of lime; if not, when will this matter be considered; if so,
- (5) whether the agricultural sector, which also makes extensive use of lime for soil treatment, will be negatively affected; if not, how was this conclusion reached; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

- (1) The engineering solution that is being prepared for implementation addresses recommendations from the report by the team of experts and includes pumping and neutralisation. The full details of the engineering solutions are not yet available for circulation
- (1)(a) Details of the neutralisation that could include liming will form part of the engineering solution.
- (1)(b) Refer to (1)(a).
- (1)(c) Details of institutional arrangements and the project execution plan form part of the engineering solution.
- (2) Refer to (1)(a).
- (3) Cost details of the project implementation will form part of the engineering solution.
- (4) No, refer to (1)(a).
- (5) The Department is not in a position to speculate on the effect of lime availability to the agricultural sector.

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