

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NUMBER:3471 [NW4145E]

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Mrs H N Ndude (Cope) to ask the Minister of Finance:

Whether he intends introducing an environmental levy to working mines in order to deal with acid mine drainage; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) when and (b) how will the levy operate?

NW4145E

REPLY:

The Department of Water Affairs (DWA) is in the process of developing a Waste Discharge Charge System (WDCS) which seeks to deal with effluent into the water resources. This system includes the use of an environmental levy (disincentive charge) to encourage dischargers to treat effluent before discharging it into the water resource or catchment management area. Before such a charge or levy can be imposed, the National Water Act needs to be amended and the Minister of Finance at the request of, and after consulting with the Minister of Water Affairs, will introduce the necessary legislation (a Money Bill) to implement such a levy.

The WDCS will deal with point sources (PS) and non-point sources (NPS) waste discharges from active dischargers, and operational mines will be covered in the system. However, such an impost will not be able to deal with acid mine drainage from abandoned mines, and a different arrangement to deal with this problem is under consideration.