

Question 1:

1. The Minister is the shareholder/representative responsible for the running of the Water Board which by law have been delegated authority by the Minister which can be withdrawn at any time.
2. The Minister is by law also authorized to from time-to-time issue directives to the Board and act within the legal framework in order to exercise oversight on the affairs of the Board.
3. The Minister can therefore not be accused of exercising her authority duly residing with her in terms of the law.
4. It is the Minister who appoints and also it is the Minister who dismisses Board members.
5. The authority of the Minister to appoint cannot be by law delegated. It is therefore mischievous to suggest that a ministerial power to appoint can be exercised by a ministerial advisor.
6. The Minister and/or her advisor cannot be responsible for conduct of any Board member in a Board or at a Board meeting.

Question 2:

7. The allegation that Mr Mdekazi is close to the Minister and that the Minister allows him to be law unto himself is not correct and has no basis. It is highly disingenuous for anyone to even suggest the existence of an intimate relationship between a Minister and an advisor, more so by a senior official of an entity reporting to the Minister, this is regrettable and its truthfulness is denied.

Question 3:

8. Any suggestion of evidence to the effect that the advisor brags about his power to appoint and dismiss Board members is denied. The CEO should not confuse any attempts to hold her to account with being a victim of harassment because she claims that she is standing in the way of anyone who seeks to advance corrupt interest.

Question 4:

9. As stated, the power to appoint and fire Board members resides with the Minister and the Minister only.

Question 5:

10. The issue of EWS have long been entertained in the Department since the time of former Minister Nkwinti as it was promoted by the Water Research Commission and as such it is the Water Research Commission that introduced EWS already in April 2019.
11. The idea that this was touted in a meeting in August 2019 is not correct.
12. On the 23rd October 2019, the Minister attended a meeting with the Board of Amatola Water wherein the CEO requested permission to consider alternative methods and technology in the process of alleviating the effect of the drought in the Eastern Cape.
13. In that meeting the Minister gave an in-principle approval for Amatola Water to consider use of alternative methods and technology and the Minister required a detailed submission on the proposed interventions and details of the alternative technologies to be considered. In indeed it is a fact that EWS was

discussed in the meeting of August 2019 it would have been specifically mentioned in the letter that the technology that Amatola Water was looking at as an alternative method would have been mentioned and the Minister would not have required a detailed submission of the alternative technology to be considered.

14. In response to this letter on the 31st October 2019 the CEO of Amatola confirmed that they had entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Water Research Commission to explore various technologies for water source an extraction.
15. The pilot area for the sand water extraction was confirmed to be at Busman's River Mouth which already was a subject of discussion between Amatola Water and RWS and EWS as early as in April 2019.
16. In this very letter AW confirmed the procurement of the services of EWS as the sole service provider for the sand water extraction for the pilot and for the roll-out where the extraction is considered a feasible option.
17. Amatola Water ("AW") also projected the site where the piloting of the sand water extraction would take place and one of these was in Queenstown (Whittlesea).
18. It was further mentioned in the letter that funding is needed for the test and that AW is ready to pilot and roll-out the technology as it was one of the feasible options to mitigate the current drought crisis prevailing in the Eastern Cape and that AW does not have a budget for the roll-out beyond the pilot area and a submission together with a cost estimate would be made once the testing was complete.

19. The testing was according to my knowledge completed and a budget was requested and was provided.
20. Once this budget was provided and requested there was no implementation of the sand water extraction as the sand water extraction was the touted method and upon enquiring the CEO was evasive and blamed the service provider for not being on site whilst appointed which prompted further enquiries to the service provider and it turned out that the service provider was neither appointed nor was the service provider paid the invoices for the tests.
21. In another meeting when a report on this matter was requested and when the Minister wanted to know whether the service provider was now on site it was reported that the service provider was indeed appointed and that the service provider was paid an upfront payment for site establishment but again the service provider was not on site and upon enquiry it turned out that the service provider was never appointed and there was no upfront payment made either.
22. At no stage did the Ministerial advisor threaten the CEO for an allocation of a budget.

Question 6:

23. There is no relationship between the Ministerial advisor and the service provider except for a professional relationship like any other relationship existing between stakeholders.

Question 7:

24. I cannot comment on this question as I do not have personal knowledge of it.

Question 8:

25. I cannot comment on this question as I do not have knowledge of it and cannot be responsible for rumours.

Question 9:

26. I am not in a position to confirm these rumours but what I can confirm is that I am not a fixer of any politician.

Lepelle Northern Water:

Question 10:

27. I can confirm that I had introduced the service provider to Mr Legodi in the normal course of a relationship between a service provider and Government (as a stakeholder) after which I did not even sit nor did I have any interest in the discussions, I do not know what was discussed in that meeting.
28. What I know is that Lepelle Northern Water appointed the service provider and the work is continuing and I do not know of any rumour that there were plans to fire the CEO.

Question 11:

29. The allegations herein are denied.

Question 12

30. The allegations are denied.

Question 13

31. The allegations contained herein are denied.