



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Enquiries: Mr R Khan
Telephone: 021 941 6027
Reference: 6/2/2/6

MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION ★213 FOR ORAL REPLY

A draft reply to the above mentioned question asked by Ms M S Khawula (EFF) is attached for your consideration.


DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 27/10/2017

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

MRS NP MOKONYANE
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

DATE: 28.10.17

FOR ORAL REPLY

QUESTION NO ★213

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 24 OCTOBER 2017
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 38)

★213. Ms M S Khawula (EFF) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:

What (a) is the true nature of the water crisis in Cape Town and (b) is her department doing to assist the City of Cape Town in dealing with the crisis to ensure that there will still be water in Cape Town by 31 March 2018?

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REPLY:

- (a) The collective storage of water in the six major dams that supply the City of Cape Town, other local municipalities and agriculture with fresh water stood at 38% of their full capacity as of Monday, 23 October 2017. In years of normal rainfall, the collective storage of these dams should be 70% of full supply at end October.

The cumulative impact of three consecutive years of receiving below average rainfall as well as associated competitive demands between the biggest users (the City and agriculture, for the water available in the dams) and the need to safeguard annual water supply for domestic and industrial use, food and job security places severe stress on the available water until the next rain season.

Although the City of Cape Town and local municipalities' water supply receive a higher priority in the allocation of water, the current inability by the City to meet its targeted daily consumption of 500 million liters per day by its residents, has prompted the City of Cape Town to introduce emergency intervention measures and projects to make up for the shortfall that may occur by the end of the summer season.

All water users within the City and local municipalities that receive water from these dams are constantly implored to save the non-essential use to avoid a "day zero" (the point at which dams run dry or are unusable).

- (b) My Department manages the three largest dams in the Province and through delegated powers; my Department curtails and regulates the respective user sector groups to compete for the available water. Currently, the City and other local municipalities are restricted to 40% of their average annual water use as per 2014/2015 consumption figures whilst agriculture is restricted to 50% of its average use in the same time period.

By the end of November 2017, my Department will review the current precautionary curtailments and if necessary, will apply more restrictive regulations to safeguard water supply for domestic, industrial, food and job security to ensure that available water lasts until the next rain season.

My Department is continuously monitoring the situation and liaises on a daily basis with the City and other users. A one government approach is applied, which entails my Department, Provincial Government, the City of Cape Town and other user groups to work collectively towards a common goal.

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