



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

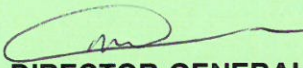
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Enquiries: D Mochotlhi
Telephone: 012336 7255
Reference: 6/2/2/6

MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES: QUESTION ★110 FOR ORAL REPLY

A draft reply to the above mentioned question asked by Ms P C Samka (Eastern Cape: ANC) is attached for your consideration.


DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 05/05/2017

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED



MRS NP MOKONYANE
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

DATE: 07.05.17.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR ORAL REPLY

QUESTION NO ★ 110

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 26 APRIL 2017
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 10)

★ 110. Ms P C Samka (Eastern Cape: ANC) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:

- (1) Whether her department has any (a) plans and (b) strategies to relieve pressure of water shortages or crises in some areas in order to ascertain that its mandate is adhered to (details furnished); if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether her department is considering (a) boreholes and (b) desalination as part of the contingency plans in the event of a total drought; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

- (1) My Department has detailed plans and strategies to relieve pressure of water shortages or crises in all areas of the country to ascertain that its mandate is adhered to. It assists Water Services Authorities (WSAs) in affected water stress areas with responses like technical assistance, the implementing of water restrictions, carting of water, and supplying water tanks among others.

My Department also fast tracks emergency schemes by identifying alternative water sources, assisting WSAs to develop and implement disaster management plans to adequately prepare for both droughts and floods, and by providing requisite technical support, funding and supporting WSAs to operate their water resources such as dams, and groundwater systems according to the developed operating rules.

- (2)(a) My Department ensures that all possible water sources are identified and the most feasible and reliable are developed for supply in normal and emergency situations. Large parts of the country are totally dependent on groundwater, i.e. the Karoo, Northern Cape, parts of Limpopo, KZN and Eastern Cape. Rural communities far from any reliable surface water sources are in most instances supplied by boreholes. The Department promotes the conjunctive use of groundwater and surface water, to ensure that all users will have some water even in the severest drought conditions.
- (2)(b) Re-use of water and desalination of seawater and brackish water has been implemented through the Department's initiatives particularly in coastal areas. Both these technologies are actively being investigated as large-scale augmentation options for several of the larger metros like City of Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and Durban.

For instance several small desalination plants were established at Sedgefield, Knysna, Plettenberg Bay and Bushmans River Mouth during the 2009-11 drought. Several more schemes are in the pipeline. Similarly, a plant was built at Mossel Bay, though it has been mothballed since completion as an emergency scheme, as the water has not been required since then. The re-use scheme in Beaufort-West, which was built during the 2009-11 drought is running full time and supplies good quality water to the inhabitants.

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