



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Enquiries: P Makhanya
Telephone: 083 782 9916
Reference: 6/2/2/6

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR ORAL REPLY

QUESTION NO 118

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 28 FEBRUARY 2023
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 5)

118. Mr M A Tseki (ANC) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:

What (a) has been the assessment of his department of the extent of the water crisis in the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality and (b) steps and decisive action will he take to deal with the crisis?

NO620E

---0000---

MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

- (a) The Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality (NMBM) has been in severe drought conditions for 7 to 8 years. The current storage capacity of the dams in the NMBM sits at a mere 12.7% of which only 6.9% is available for use. This is an all-time low for this time of the year, and dam levels continue to decline weekly.

NMBM receives water from seven water schemes. Each scheme has a restricted allocation based on hydrological models run each year to ensure sustainable use while trying to stretch the limited resource into the next rain season. Each scheme also has its own annual restricted quota, but when the allocations are combined, NMBM and Algoa System water users are

required to achieve an average restriction of 40% on domestic use and 80% restriction of normal allocations for agricultural use.

NMBM has battled to comply with restricted allocations and their monthly water use is still above 50 MI/day over their target of 230 MI/day. Reasons for not complying to restriction target include:

- High use by some consumers,
- High frequency of water leaks and high level of non-revenue water,
- Slow implementation of intervention plans, meter installations and billing
- Limitation to moving water from Eastern to Western side of the city
- High frequency of disruptive events such as planned outages, electrical failures, load-shedding and vandalism.
- Governance issues.

(b) The steps the Minister has taken to deal with the crisis are:

- Implementation of the Section 63 intervention in NMBM to address the water supply challenges, in collaboration with the provincial government and the Metro since 2022.
- Amatola Water Board (AWB) was appointed as the Implementing Agent to support the governance of the interventions.
- Through the National Treasury and the Cities Support Program, technical and experienced specialist support was extended to NMBM.
- AWB and Cities Support team is working closely with the Executive Mayor and Municipal Manager to remove barriers and ensure the rapid execution of interventions. The intervention team will provide weekly progress reports on the implementation of these interventions and actions to the department and Minister of Finance.
- The department has provided funding towards completion of Phase 3 of the Nooitgedagt Coega Low Level Scheme (NCLLS) which was completed and is currently delivering 70MI/day additional potable water for NMBM. This enables the NMBM to transfer water from the eastern to the western side of Gqeberha in attempts to ensure water availability for the western side. The total cost of this project is R534 million. There are several other additional interventions including:
 - Repair of leaking pipelines,
 - Improved metering,
 - Awareness and communication,
 - Use of dead storage,
 - Construction of additional pumps to support an integrated system, fast tracking of borehole schemes,
 - Completion of the Coegakop scheme


- Provision of emergency collection points should “dry taps” occur have been implemented.

It should be noted that the Kouga Local Municipality is dependent on water from the same Algoa System dams which supplies the NMBM, the department has also provided R57 million to the Kouga LM for the implementation of emergency drought projects to augment the water supply to all their towns. This will relieve the pressure of supplying water from the dams to Kouga LM.


The department has also provided twenty (20) water tankers to NMBM to ensure that emergency water can be delivered to strategically placed tanks to maintain basic water services. The water tankers are managed by AWB.

---0000---

DRAFT REPLY: RECOMMENDED/ ~~NOT RECOMMENDED~~/ AMENDED


DR SEAN PHILLIPS
DIRECTOR GENERAL
DATE: 3/3/23

DRAFT REPLY: APPROVED/ NOT APPROVED/ AMENDED


MR SENZO MCHUNU, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION
DATE: 10/03/23