



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR ORAL REPLY

QUESTION NO 386

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 29 AUGUST 2023
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 26)

★386. Mr B N Herron (Good) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:

- (1) With reference to Rand Water's recent announcement that they have lost R875 000 due to theft and poor infrastructure and/or repairs thereto, and that the remaining little infrastructure is imperative to maintain balance with regard to the supply of clean running water to communities without access thereto, what measures has he taken that would ensure that close to a million-rand's worth of assets of Rand Water are not further jeopardised;
- (2) which areas of the water supply has he found are currently the biggest hindrance in supplying water to communities that contributed to the loss of the specified amount?

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MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

- (1) Rand Water has an internal maintenance team that is responsible for the maintenance and repairs of its pipeline infrastructure. Approximately R230 million is spent on periodic maintenance of its pipeline infrastructure through its maintenance and operations teams. Where the internal teams are not capable of executing the repairs, RW employs specialist contractors who can repair some of these pipelines in-situ (under pressure) without taking these lines out of service, to minimize the impact of water supply interruptions to communities.

Rand Water also has an operations team that is responsible for daily pipeline patrols. These patrols enable them to report issues like encroachments, vandalism and illegal connections on their pipeline networks. Through its foundation, the entity is also looking at partnering with communities in the form of cooperative to provide security services to infrastructure that is situated in residential areas. The cooperatives will be targeting unemployed youth in those communities who will assist RW by patrolling the water infrastructure in their communities and report any form of vandalism or theft on the infrastructure.

Rand Water is also implementing technology (intruder detection) on its various meter and valve chambers. This technology will assist by providing early warning signals to its 24-hour Control Room whenever there is tampering detected at these chambers.

- (2) Most water losses occur in Rand Water's bulk pipeline distribution network because of its vastness and remote locations. This is the infrastructure that is the most vulnerable or prone to vandalism, however Rand Water is hard at work in trying to expedite the implementation of new technology that will enable it to monitor pipelines, especially those situated in remote locations, remotely.

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



**DR SEAN PHILLIPS
DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

DATE:

DRAFT REPLY: APPROVED/  NOT APPROVED/ AMENDED



**MR SENZO MCHUNU, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION**

DATE: 8/9/23