



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Reference: 6/2/2/6

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 4123

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 01 DECEMBER 2023
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 48)

4123. Mrs M R Mohlala (EFF) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:

Whether his department monitors the loss of water through leakages; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what specific initiatives and/or strategies are being implemented by his department to address the specified challenges to ensure a more sustainable and efficient water provision system given the alarming daily loss of 1,7 billion litres of water due to leakages and/or inefficiencies in the absence of preventative measures?

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MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

The Department of Water and Sanitation monitors the loss of water through leakages as reflected in the current No Drop 2023 as well as the Status of Water Losses, Non-Revenue Water and Water Use Efficiency in South African Municipalities reports, released 5 December 2023.

The latest national water balance indicates a total System Input Volume (SIV) of 4.39 billion m³/annum. The National NRW is estimated at 2 078.6 million m³/annum (47.4%) (46.4%) and the water losses is 1 789.9 million m³/annum (40.8%). KwaZulu Natal has the highest Non-Revenue Water at 56.7% with Western Cape having the lowest at 27.9%. The National water use per capita usage is currently 218 l/c/d, which is significantly above the international benchmark of 180 l/c/d. Gauteng Province has the highest per capita usage at 266 l/c/d followed by Northern Cape at (247 l/c/d), then Kwa Zulu Natal at (229 l/c/d). Western Cape has the lowest water use at 162 l/c/d. The current 2023 No Drop Report reflects that NRW, and water losses have increased by a notable 5.9% and 4.3% respectively since 2014.

Initiatives and strategies being implemented by the DWS to address the specified challenges to ensure a more sustainable and efficient water provision system include the following:

- The Department is continuously monitoring and analysing the progress made with the implementation of Water Conservation and Water Demand Management and targets set during the updating of Reconciliation Strategies at Water Services Authority level, within the eight large water supply systems. All the relevant stakeholders meet twice a year to report progress on the implementation of various strategies which will ensure the sustainability of water resources.
- DWS Minister and Deputy Ministers spend most of their time crisscrossing the country visiting those municipalities with severe challenges with water and sanitation services, including water losses and non-revenue water. DWS and Water Boards are supporting many of the municipalities to implement improvement plans agreed to by Ministry and municipal leadership. DWS works with COGTA, the Municipal Infrastructure Support Agency, the Department of Human Settlements, and National Treasury to provide support to the worst performing municipalities, including:
 - Allocating infrastructure grants worth more than R20 billion per annum to municipalities
 - Technical and engineering support and assistance
 - Capacity building and training
 - Financial management advice and support
- Despite all the support being provided to municipalities, water losses and non-revenue water continue to increase. Fundamental reform is required to arrest and turn around the decline in municipal water and sanitation services. In this regard, DWS has recently gazetted the Water Services Amendment Bill for public comment. The Bill introduces a compulsory operating license system for WSPs, to be managed by DWS as the national regulator, which will enable water services authorities to ensure that water services providers have minimum competency, capability, and performance levels.

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DRAFT REPLY: RECOMMENDED/ NOT RECOMMENDED/ AMENDED

SRW

DR SEAN PHILLIPS
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
DATE: 7/12/23

DRAFT REPLY: APPROVED/ NOT APPROVED/ AMENDED

Senzo Mchunu

MR SENZO MCHUNU, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION
DATE: 12/12/23