



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Reference: 6/2/2/6

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR ORAL REPLY

QUESTION NO 423

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

423. Ms M M Matuba (ANC) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:

Whether, with reference to households that owe municipalities billions of rands and municipalities that owe water boards billions of rands for the provision of water services, he intends writing off monies owed in each specified case; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what mechanisms does he intend employing in the medium and long term to ensure that households and municipalities pay for the water and sanitation services rendered?

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MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

The Water Boards have to date not been writing off any municipal debt. However, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) is considering the possibility of introducing a mechanism informed by the experience of the Eskom debt relief package to allow for municipal debt to be written off incrementally once the municipalities have established a good payment record for a specified period of time. DWS is still consulting with National Treasury and the Water Boards and this has not been implemented yet.

The DWS has been engaging with National Treasury, the Water Boards and SALGA to identify appropriate measures to address the debt owed by municipalities to the Water Boards:

- a) DWS has developed standardised credit control processes across the Water Boards. The standard operating procedures were developed in consultation with National Treasury and SALGA and a consultation process with all relevant parties including all the Water Service Authorities has been concluded. The DWS Minister will consult with the Water Boards prior to adoption of the credit control measures.
- b) The standard operating procedures include consistent enforcement of water restrictions on non-paying municipalities and legal processes to attach municipal bank accounts where necessary.
- c) It has been agreed that DWS will collaborate with National Treasury to ensure that equitable share allocations are withheld for municipalities not paying their current Water Board invoices.
- d) Bulk prepaid meters will be installed by water boards in municipalities with a poor payment record, if possible.

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



**DR SEAN PHILLIPS
DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

DATE: 04/09/23

DRAFT REPLY: APPROVED/ NOT APPROVED/ AMENDED



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

DATE: 8/5/23