



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Enquiries: R Mathye  
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Reference: 6/2/2/6

### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

#### FOR ORAL REPLY

#### QUESTION NO 6

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 14 MARCH 2023  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 9)

#### 6. Mrs H Denner (FF Plus) to ask the Deputy President:

Whether he has identified the Kopanong municipality as a service delivery hotspot, following the tailings dam disaster on 11 September 2022, that hit the town of Jagersfontein particularly hard, worsening the water supply of the community which they already lacked prior to the disaster, resulting in a provincial declaration of disaster, after which the Government, following the visit of President Mr MC Ramaphosa, provided water tanks, which now appears to be a wholly insufficient permanent solution; if not, why not; if so, what rapid response interventions does he intend implementing to ensure that the residents have adequate access to water that will restore their dignity?

NO945E

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#### DEPUTY PRESIDENT

Prior to the disaster on 11 September 2022, the water supply from Bloem Water to the Kopanong Municipality was at 30% due to non-payment of outstanding debt to the Water Board. However, as a result of the tailings dam disaster, water supply in the Kopanong Municipality had to be restored to full capacity as part of the rapid response intervention of the Department and the Water Board.

Furthermore, Bloem Water, as the Water Service Provider (WSP) to the Kopanong Local Municipality (KLM) further intervened to ensure availability of water in Kopanong following the disaster on 11 September 2022 in the following ways:

- a) Two 18000 litre water tankers were deployed to Jagersfontein in the morning of 12 September 2022 and were operational in the area for three (3) months.

- b) Re-operationalisation of the Water Treatment Works in the area was completed on 12 September via a backup generator for supply of electricity to the plant due to power being affected by the collapse of the sludge dam.
- c) Power was restoration by Centlec (a local electricity distributor Entity) on 14 September 2022, which enabled the Water Treatment Works to operate at full capacity. This intervention assisted to restore bulk water distribution to other areas except Charlesville in the Jagersfontein and Fauresmith towns, respectively, due to the pipeline which was damaged by the flooding.
- d) On 13 October 2022, a new bulk pipeline was laid by the maintenance team of Bloem Water in the area of Charlesville to supply the community with bulk water from the treatment works.
- e) On 21 October 2022, the last portion of the pipeline supplying Charlesville which was damaged in the disaster was repaired and commissioned to supply the whole area with bulk water from the Treatment Works.
- f) A series of water quality tests were conducted by both Bloem Water and the Department of Water and Sanitation throughout the three months since the disaster happened.
- g) On 14 September 2022, a 45000 litre water tanker from Coca Cola Beverage Africa (CCBA) was deployed to Charlesville to augment water supply from other

Bloem Water had informed the Kopanong Municipality about its inability to continue supply of water at full capacity due to non-payment of the outstanding debt to the Water Board. However, the municipality has not honoured payment of the current account or provided a realistic payment plan covering the historic debt to Bloem Water.


This has led to a decision for the entity to once again restrict water supply at 30% to all the nine (9) towns of Kopanong Municipality.

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

  
**DR SEAN PHILLIPS**  
**DIRECTOR-GENERAL**  
DATE: 16/03/23

DRAFT REPLY: APPROVED/ ~~NOT APPROVED~~/ AMENDED

  
**MR SENZO MCHUNU, MP**  
**MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION**  
DATE: 28/3/23