



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 710

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 13 OCTOBER 2023
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 38)

710. Ms D C Christians (Northern Cape: DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:

What are the details of his department's plans for (a) investing in and (b) upgrading the Vaal Gamagara Regional Bulk Water Scheme to (i) increase its capacity and (ii) ensure that it will meet the water demands of municipalities it serves?

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MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

The Vaal Gamagara Bulk Water Supply Scheme (VGWSS) was handed over to Bloem Water Board (now Vaal Central Water Board) in 2022 by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS). The scheme currently supplies approximately 22 million m³/annum to domestic consumers, mines, industry such as solar farms and stock farmers.

- (a) The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has put in place a Project Steering Committee (PSC) with the Northern Cape Mines Leadership Forum (MLF) to initiate discussions for a collaborative institutional arrangement for the sustainable development of the VGWSS.

DWS has submitted a business plan to the Budget Facility for Infrastructure (BFI) 2023 budget cycle for partial funding for a project to upgrade the VGWSS. The proposal stipulates that the private sector, represented by the Mining Leadership Forum, would contribute 56% and government 44% of the total estimated R9,343 billion capital requirement.

A Memorandum of Understanding has been drafted between Vaal Central Water Board, DWS, MLF and the Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA), where DBSA will be the

Implementing Agent (IA) and the project will be funded by DWS and the MLF. This MOU is currently being considered by all parties.

- (b-c) The upgrading of the Vaal Gamagara Water Supply Scheme: Phase 2 (VGWSS-II) entails the construction of new pipelines from Delportshoop to Olifantshoek, upgrading three pump stations, upgrading of the Delportshoop Water Treatment Works and the development of two groundwater abstraction sites in the Northern Cape. The existing system will remain operational during the implementation of VGRWSS-II, to ensure water supply to the various municipalities, farmers and mines in the region.


The water from the Vaal River at the Vaal Gamagara abstraction works will be augmented by means of groundwater and dewatering sources from mines. Groundwater is also obtained from mining dewatering activities at Beeshoek and Sishen. Groundwater modelling and exploration indicates that adequate volumes can be abstracted from SD1, SD2 and SD4 resource areas (as identified in the Vaal Gamagara Regional Water Supply Scheme Implementation Readiness Study) to augment the water supply to the VGWSS.

Dewatering is required to decrease water from groundwater inflow into mining pits for safe mining. Water from dewatering activities is supplied directly into the VGWS network. The two dewatering systems that supply water to the VGWS are:


- Anglo A Kumba Iron Ore Sishen Mine near Kathu
- Anglo American Kumba Iron Ore Kolomela Mine near Postmasburg, although the equipment at this facility was stolen. The mine is in the process of restoring the facility which is currently not supplying water to the VGWS scheme.

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


DR SEAN PHILLIPS
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
DATE: 28/11/2023 ✓

DRAFT REPLY: APPROVED/ NOT APPROVED/ AMENDED


MR SENZO MCHUNU, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION
DATE: 01/12/23