



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Enquiries: R Mathye  
Telephone: 072 263 0745  
Reference:6/2/2/6

### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

### FOR ORAL REPLY

### QUESTION NO 713

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(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 42)

#### ★713. Mr M A Tseki (ANC) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:

Considering that according to the recent Census 2022 estimate, 82,4% of households in the Republic have access to piped water inside and/or outside of their homes, and noting that vandalism and theft of water and sanitation infrastructure pose a direct danger to the Government's achievements and the reliability of community water supplies, what strategies and alternative mechanisms has he put in place to guarantee the communities, particularly in the Matzikama Local Municipality where they were without water for two weeks, continue to receive a constant water supply on a daily basis?

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### MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

The Matzikama Municipality has been subjected to acts of vandalism of municipal infrastructure. The total cost of all vandalism of infrastructure is valued at R1,2 million for the past 12 months for the Matzikama Local Municipality.

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) conducted door to door and anti-vandalism awareness campaigns in Klawer encouraging communities to report the cases of theft of municipal infrastructure. South African Police Services had 24-hour roadblocks for 2 weeks on the 10 of October to 21 October 2022 in support of DWS campaigns. The Department of Justice also prioritised cases of stolen municipal infrastructure materials.

The DWS is currently implementing the following projects in the Matzikama LM to improve water supply:

- Upgrading of the Ebenhaeser Water Treatment Works
- Civil Works for the Upgrading of Vredendal Sewer Pumpstation Phase 1
- Upgrading of Matzikama Sewer Pumpstation Phase 2

- Upgrading of Oxidation Ponds, Sewer Pipelines & Reservoir in Rietpoort, Molsvlei & Bitterfontein

The damage and theft of the distribution equipment results in communities being without services for a prolonged period. The environment is also adversely affected as sewer spillages result in environmental disasters which cause contamination of rivers and dams which serves as the water source for communities.

The replacement costs of the infrastructure estimated need to be funded from municipal revenues, but this had not been budgeted for. This hampers the municipalities' mandate of expanding basic services to communities which are in desperate need of these basic services.

The Department of Water and Sanitation together with Water Service Authorities have ongoing campaigns to raise public awareness about the impact of the theft and vandalism of water and sanitation infrastructure. In addition, municipalities are advised to secure water infrastructure and prevent vandalism and theft of infrastructure which causes water supply interruptions.

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



**DR SEAN PHILLIPS**  
**DIRECTOR GENERAL**

DATE: 10/11/23

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



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

DATE: 17/11/23