



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR ORAL REPLY

QUESTION NO 09

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(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 22)

★9. Ms M Bartlett (Northern Cape: ANC) to ask the Deputy President:

- (1) Whether the Government has identified the service delivery hotspots in the country, notwithstanding the indications that there is a significant increase in the provision of basic services such as sewerage and sanitation, solid waste management, water and electricity; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether the Government has considered any measures to ensure that the provision of basic services is not only expanded, but the communities beyond the service delivery hotspots get reliable and quality services; if not, why not; if so, (a) what measures and (b) what are the further relevant details?

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT

- (1) The 2022 Green Drop and 2023 Blue Drop assessment reports of the Department of water and Sanitation (DWS) indicate deterioration in water services, in terms of the management of wastewater and quality and reliability of supply of drinking water.

The cause of the decline is poor maintenance and operation by municipalities which must be funded by revenue from the sale of water by municipalities to customers. The DWS has repeatedly provided municipalities with grants to repair infrastructure, which is not maintained by the municipalities, deteriorates again rapidly, and then funding needs to be provided again.

In many of the worst performing municipalities, Minister and municipal leadership have agreed on improvement plans. The contribution of the DWS to remedy some of the challenges is in form of:

- Financial Support through the Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant (RBIG) and Water Services Infrastructure Grant (WSIG).
- Technical advice and management support from DWS and water boards.

- (2) However, it should be noted that there are limits to which support and intervention by the national government can address the decline in the reliability and quality of water and sanitation services in municipalities. To arrest and turn around the decline in municipal water and sanitation services, the municipal water and sanitation function must be fixed, which requires fundamental reform throughout the water sector.


The DWS is consulting with stakeholders regarding amendments to the Water Services Act to more clearly separate roles of Water Service Authorities and Water Service Providers and to enable Minister to intervene more effectively in struggling municipalities.

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


DR SEAN PHILLIPS
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
DATE: 8/6/23

DRAFT REPLY: APPROVED/ NOT APPROVED/ AMENDED


MR SENZO MCHUNU, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION
DATE: 20/06/23