



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Reference: 6/2/2/6

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 100

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 24 FEBRUARY 2023
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 3)

100. Mr J J Londt (Western Cape: DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:

- (1) (a) What was the (i) budget and (ii) actual spending on maintenance by the water board(s) that are responsible for the Matjhabeng Local Municipality from 1 January 2013 up to the latest specified date for which information is available, (b) what are the reasons for the (i) insufficient budget and (ii) underspending and (c) why no pipeline infrastructure upgrade has taken place over the past 30 years (details furnished).
- (2) whether any large-scale infrastructure upgrades of the pipelines are in progress; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

1. (a) The expenditure on maintenance for the Matjhabeng Local Municipality from 2012/13 to 2022/23 is as follows:

Entity	Financial year	Budget	Expenditure
		R	R
Sedibeng Water	2012/13	13 157 548	10 128 229
	2013/14	14 546 023	12 830 131
	2014/15	16 720 189	15 789 205
	2015/16	17 033 160	20 125 987
	2016/17	18 483 022	27 591 565
	2017/18	19 508 206	20 047 885

Entity	Financial year	Budget	Expenditure
		R	R
	2018/19	19 327 225	16 117 623
	2019/20	25 110 796	27 485 018
	2020/21	18 918 469	6 947 996
	2021/22	19 708 488	11 701 621
Bloem Water	2022/23	16 270 673	495 806*

* Expenditure for 6 months (July-Dec 2022)

- (b) Due to financial difficulties, Sedibeng Water reduced the maintenance budget for the Free State Region. The funding constraints can be attributed to debts owed by municipalities. This necessitated the limitation of maintenance expenditure to only cover critical repairs. This meant that no significant refurbishment was done on any of the purification plants, pumps, pipelines, and storage facilities.

Whenever a breakdown occurred, the opportunity was used to refurbish the equipment, where possible. As such, pumps were refurbished at Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) suppliers and other infrastructure components like short sections of pipes were replaced.

- (c) The issue of debts owed by municipalities is a serious business risk which hampers maintenance of critical infrastructure such as the upgrading and refurbishment of pipes.
2. There are no large-scale infrastructure upgrades currently in progress. Capital infrastructure upgrades can only be made when there are funds available. If Municipalities were to consistently honour their accounts, this will allow the Entity to qualify for borrowings from financial institutions which can then be utilised for infrastructure upgrades.

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


DR SEAN PHILLIPS
DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 17/03/23

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


MR SENZO MCHUNU, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

DATE

28/3/23