



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 169

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 17 MARCH 2023
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 7)

169. Mr F J Badenhorst (Western Cape: DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:

Whether, regarding the negative impact of load shedding in providing water and sanitation, (a) he and/or (b) his department will establish a multi-disciplinary task team in order to ensure water and wastewater security from all aspects; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has engaged with municipalities and with its entities such as the water boards regarding the effects of load shedding on the water sector. It has also been participating in the national government structures that have been set up to manage the impact of load shedding, including the NATJOINTS Energy Directors General meeting.

As a result of these engagements, DWS developed a document on how load shedding should be managed in the electricity sector, which was submitted to the disaster management structures during the period when the load shedding national disaster was in effect. The indication from government's legal experts was that the approaches recommended by DWS can be implemented without requiring emergency disaster measures. DWS is subsequently encouraging its water boards and municipalities to implement the recommended measures.

The recommended measures include that Water Boards and municipalities should:

- a) Develop alternative sources of electricity supply to meet their electricity needs, either through off-take agreements with independent power producers or embedded generators, or through direct ownership.
- b) Maximize water treatment while electricity is available.
- c) Revise the minimum operational levels for their reservoirs to increase storage capacity.
- d) Endeavor to increase their water treatment and reservoir storage capacity to enable them to better manage periods of load shedding.
- e) Either apply to Eskom for exemptions from load shedding (where they obtain electricity directly from Eskom) or work with their municipal electricity departments to isolate their water and sanitation infrastructure.

In the above context, it is not necessary to establish a multi-disciplinary task team.

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

SPhillips

DR SEAN PHILLIPS
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
DATE: 26 04 2023 ✓

DRAFT REPLY: APPROVED/ NOT APPROVED/ AMENDED

S Mchunu

MR SENZO MCHUNU, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION
DATE: 28/04/23