



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 17

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 10 FEBRUARY 2023
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 1)

17. Mr G Michalakis (Free State: DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:

- (1) Whether there are any plans to upgrade water infrastructure to the communities in Matjhabeng, in particular the Ventersburg and Hennenman districts, taking into account the increase in demand as a result of the growing population; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether such infrastructure upgrade will be expected within the next five financial years; if not, why not; if so, (a) at what amount, (b) at what cost and (c) what are the relevant timeframes for such upgrades;
- (3) whether he has been informed that the said communities currently experience prolonged water interruptions that are leading to frequent civil unrests; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) what are the reasons in this regard and (b) what are the alternative solutions to provide more water to the communities?

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MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

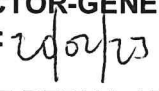
1. There are plans and, in some instances, project designs are in place for some areas of Matjhabeng such as Ventersburg and Mmamahabane systems. These plans and designs were developed by the erstwhile Sedibeng Water Board. However, due to the total debt of R5 billion owed by Matjhabeng Local Municipality to the entity over the years, these plans could not be implemented. It should be noted that the municipality is in the process of dealing with water losses occurring within the municipal conveyance system. A water conservation and water demand strategy has been developed to address water losses.
2. The infrastructure upgrade will depend on the financial status of Bloem Water. Should the Municipality honour its current account and service its historic debt, the entity will be able to upgrade its bulk infrastructure within the next five years.
 - a) The projected amount needed to address infrastructure upgrades in the municipality is estimated to be R900 million.
 - b) The timeframes of five (5) years would be required if the funding is availed immediately.
3. (a) The reasons for water interruptions are mainly due to dilapidated infrastructure that has not been maintained for a long time due to financial constraints. Ongoing loadshedding by ESKOM in the recent months has further exacerbated the challenge to areas of Hennenman and Ventersburg that are located at the end of the bulk pipeline, further away from the Water Treatment Works.

(b) Water Tankers have been provided by Bloem Water to ensure access to water for communities. Other solutions can only be feasible when funding is available to address the upgrading, refurbishment, repairs of key infrastructure assets for bulk provision of potable water in Matjhabeng LM.

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


DR SEAN PHILLIPS
DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 

DRAFT REPLY: APPROVED/ NOT APPROVED/ AMENDED


MR SENZO MCHUNU, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

DATE: 