



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 431

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 26 May 2023
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 20)

431. Mr M S Moletsane (Free State: EFF) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:

What relief has been offered to the residents of Ventersburg in the Matjhabeng Local Municipality in the Free State that have been struggling with access to water since 2022 with no improvement to date?

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MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

Consistent bulk water supply to Ventersburg is impacted by critical challenges including stage 6 loadshedding, burst pipelines, amongst others. Interventions that are being implemented by the municipality, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) as well as Bloem Water include:

- The deployment of water tankers by the municipality to Ventersburg when there are water supply challenges.
- Bloem Water is also in the process of obtaining exemption from Eskom regarding load shedding of the affected booster pump station (Brabant). A diesel generator set is currently being procured as a backup at the same pump station.
- Critical maintenance currently being conducted at Balkfontein water plant and throughout the whole water supply scheme.
- The Matjhabeng LM has also appointed qualified Civil Engineers, Technologists, Technicians and thirty (30) qualified artisan plumbers and purchased four (4) new heavy equipment vehicles (TLBs) to assist in water network maintenance and pipe bursts.
- In the 2023/2024 FY, the technical service will run the following water business programmes:

- Pressure management to reduce pipe bursts and water losses.
 - Non-Revenue Water Management to reduce water losses and improve revenue collection.
 - SCADA System to measure and monitor water losses in the reticulation system.
 - Active leak detections to locate invisible pipe bursts.
- The municipality will also appoint a suitable Professional Services Provider (PSP) to develop a Water Demand and Water Conservation Management (WDWCM) Strategy as a fundamental step in promoting water use efficiency and to be compliant with both the Water Services Act and the National Water Act, Act 36 Of 1998, which together emphasizes effective management of water resources and supply services.
 - The municipality has procured over six thousand water meters in the 2022/2023 FY to start addressing the issue of unmetered consumers and to improve revenue collection.

Additional funding is required to address the more than ten (10) years of unmaintained strategic infrastructure assets of the disestablished Sedibeng Water. The current water provider, Bloem Water does not have the required funds.

Matjhabeng LM has submitted a business plan to Infrastructure South Africa (ISA) for replacement of old asbestos and old galvanized pipes with an estimated cost of R1,4 billion.

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

SPhillips

DR SEAN PHILLIPS
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
 DATE: 5 June 2023

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 DRAFT REPLY: APPROVED/ NOT APPROVED/ AMENDED

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MR SENZO MCHUNU, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION
 DATE: 6/6/23