



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 67

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 17 FEBRUARY 2023
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 2)

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

What interventions have been made in Riebeeckstad in Matjhabeng Local Municipality where residents have been without water and proper sanitation for more than three months?

CW68E

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MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

Bloem Water repaired one of the three pumps on 17 February 2023. The second pump set was due to be delivered on 23 February 2023 but was not delivered as expected due to delays on the part of the manufacturing company. Efforts are underway to expedite delivery early in March 2023. The repairing of the third pump will take some time as it needs mechanical and electrical repairs. The process for repairs is underway.

It should be noted that the leaks in the reticulation networks of the Municipality are also exacerbating the challenge of water supply to residents. The strategic infrastructure of the former Sedibeng Water to Matjhabeng Local Municipality (Balkfontein and Virginia Water Treatment Works) was not maintained over the last ten years owing to outstanding debt of over R4 billion by Matjhabeng Municipality to Sedibeng Water. Bloem Water took over the operational area of the now disestablished Sedibeng Water from 1st August 2022. Based on the ongoing assessments of Bloem Water, R402 million is required to address key maintenance backlogs in order to supply uninterrupted bulk water and sanitation to Matjhabeng LM.

In the meantime, Bloem Water is addressing some components of infrastructure that are critical to service delivery of water. Engagements with the new Municipal Manager of the Matjhabeng LM are continuing so that payment for water services is prioritised. This will enable Bloem Water to conduct critical maintenance that has not been conducted for years.

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



**DR SEAN PHILLIPS
DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

DATE: 24/02/23 ✓

DRAFT REPLY: APPROVED/ NOT APPROVED/ AMENDED



**MR SENZO MCHUNU, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION**

DATE: 06/02/23