



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Enquiries: P Makhanya
Telephone: 083 728 9916
Reference: 6/2/2/6

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 682

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 29 SEPTEMBER 2023
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 36)

682. Ms M Dlamini (Mpumalanga: EFF) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:

(a) What interventions have been made in the (i) Mbhashe and (ii) Mngoma Local Municipalities where residents are without reliable water supply, (b) what are the causes for the delays in water supply in such areas and (c) what time frames are in place to address the situation?

CW871E

---0000---

MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

(a) The Mbhashe and Mngoma Local Municipalities are situated in the Amathole District Municipality which is both a Water Services Authority and Water Services Provider. The municipalities are rural in nature with undulating terrain. Households are sparsely distributed across the municipalities. There are limited surface water sources and groundwater in these areas which are often poor in yield. All these factors make it difficult and costly to install, operate and maintain water supply systems.

The rural areas within these municipalities have been historically served with standalone schemes supplied from boreholes. These are being gradually being replaced by larger regional water supply schemes implemented by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) and the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA). Water supply projects are being funded through the Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant (RBIG) of the DWS and the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) of COGTA.

Projects in Mbhashe and Mngoma Local municipalities are at various stages of implementation (planning, under construction) and some have been completed. Progress made in the Mbhashe Local Municipality is indicated below:

- There are four Regional Water Supply projects completed in the last 5 years and are serving portions of wards 5, 6 and 22; as well as 16, 18, 19, 20, 23, 26, 28 and 32. The projects were funded through MIG and RBIG.

Table 1: Completed projects in Mbashe LM

Project name	Grant Funding	Year Completed	Total Grant Contribution
Mncwasa Regional Water Scheme	RBIG	2016	R294 million
Mbashe North Regional Water Supply Scheme	MIG	2018	R169 million
Qwaninga Regional Water Supply Scheme	MIG	2013	R72 million
Xhora Regional Water Supply Scheme (phases 1 -7)	RBIG	2019	R 494 million

- There are five water supply schemes under construction funded through MIG. These will serve wards 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 11, 22, 23, 24, 29, 30 and 31. The projects are at various stages of construction ranging from site establishment to 78% of progress. Anticipated completion dates are between 15 December 2023 to 30 June 2025.

Table 2: Projects under construction in Mbashe LM

Project Name	Grant funding	Progress	Anticipated date of completion	Comments
Ward 31 Water Supply Scheme	MIG	7.5%	13 June 2025	The contractors were appointed in June 2023 and currently on-site.
Bende Water Supply Scheme	MIG	1%	12 June 2025	
Shixini Water Supply Scheme	MIG	19%	30 August 2024	
Upgrading of water storage and reticulation to accommodate future development in Dutywa	MIG	4.6%	13 June 2024	
Xhora Regional Water Supply Scheme - Phase 8	RBIG	78 % progress on construction	15 December 2023	The contractor was appointed in March 2021 and is on-site.

- There are additional three (3) water supply schemes under planning (from technical report to tender stages) that will serve wards 2 (portion of the ward), 3 (portion of the ward), 4 portion of wards 5, 6 as well as wards 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12. Details on projects currently under construction is indicated in the table below:

Table 3: Projects under planning in Mphashe LM

Project name	Grant Funding	Current Status
Sewage Reticulation in Willowvale	MIG	Technical report
Elliotdale Waste Water Treatment Works	MIG	Feasibility Study
Sundwana Regional Water Supply Scheme	RBIG	Implementation Readiness Study

Progress made in relation to intervention in the Mquma Local Municipality is indicated below:

- There are two regional water supply projects completed in the last 5 years and are serving wards 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18 and 20. The projects were funded under the MIG.

Table 4: Projects completed in Mquma LM

Project name	Grant Funding	Year Completed	Total Grant Contribution
Ngqamakhwe Regional Water Supply Schemes Phase 1 and 2	MIG	2022	R290 million
Gcuwa West Regional Water Supply	MIG	2022	R141 million

- There are two water supply schemes under construction that will serve wards 17, 18, 19, 20, 26 and 27 and are funded under the MIG and RBIG. The projects are at various stages of construction ranging from 16 % to 78%. The anticipated completion dates are between 15 December 2023 to 11 April 2025.
- There are four water supply schemes that are under planning (from technical report to tender stages) that will serve wards 10, 13 to 20, 28, 29, 30 and 31, that are also funded under the MIG and RBIG.

Table 5: Projects under planning in Mquma

Project name	Grant Funding	Current Status
Bawa Falls Water Supply	MIG	Pre-feasibility
Crouch's Bush Water Supply Phase 3	MIG	Technical Report
Ngqamakhwe Regional Water Supply Scheme Phase 5B	RBIG	Detailed Design
Ngqamakhwe Regional Water Supply Scheme Phase 5B	RBIG	Preliminary Design

- There are numerous stand-alone schemes and smaller regional schemes that are still under construction that are funded through the DWS' Water Services Infrastructure Grant and MIG.

Table 6: Projects under construction in Mquma LM

Project Name	Grant funding	Progress	Date of completion	Comments
Ngqamakhwe Regional Water Supply Scheme Phase 5A	RBIG	16% overall progress on construction	11 April 2025	The contractor was appointed in February 2023 and established site in June 2023. Construction has started with excavation for the abstraction reservoir and pumpstation building.
Nxaxo & Cebe Water Supply Scheme – Phases 1 and 2	MIG	90% construction progress	15 December 2023	The contractor was appointed in December 2017. The project is on-going.


- (b) The operation and maintenance of the completed schemes is an ongoing challenge owing to the collapse of boreholes, vandalism, illegal connections as well as the relatively low allocation of funding to schemes that are more costly to operate than schemes in cities where there are greater economies of scale. The above schemes are designed to provide mainly a Rural Development Programme (RDP) level of supply through communal standpipes and so cost recovery is very low. Project planning and implementation delays are due to water source challenges, procurement processes and funding constraints.
- (c) The operation and maintenance challenges are mitigated through water carting to the affected areas within limited timeframes by relevant Water Services Authorities. However, the WSA are unable to cart water to all the affected areas due to budget constraints. The implementation of regional schemes is work in progress and is a slow process due to fiscus funding constraints; community dynamics, poor performance by contractors and lengthy procurement processes.

---0000---

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


DR SEAN PHILLIPS
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
 DATE: 31/10/23

✓
 DRAFT REPLY: APPROVED/ NOT APPROVED/ AMENDED


MR SENZO MCHUNU, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION
 DATE: 07/11/23