



## 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 693

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 13 OCTOBER 2023  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 38)

**693. Ms M Dlamini (Mpumalanga: EFF) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation: [★224]**

- (1) What precautionary measures are in place to combat (a) the theft and (b) vandalism of water infrastructure;
- (2) whether such measures included safeguarding against the destruction of infrastructure for tendering purposes; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? CW828E

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#### **MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION**

The damage and theft of water and sanitation infrastructure results in communities being without services for a prolonged period. The environment is also adversely affected as sewer spillages result in environmental disasters which cause contamination of rivers and dams which are a water source for communities.

The replacement costs of the infrastructure are currently estimated into hundreds of millions of rands which have not been budgeted for. This also hampers the municipalities in their mandate of expanding basic services to communities which are in desperate need of these basic services.


As a precautionary measure, all DWS owned infrastructure categorised as National Key Points (dams) are guarded by qualified armed security guards which are officials in the department whereas non-strategic assets are guarded by private security companies.

It must be noted that due to the nature of conveyance systems (including canals, pipelines and tunnels), it is challenging to have sufficient security measures in place to completely mitigate the risk of vandalism. However, there are operating and maintenance agreements with water boards and water user associations for government water schemes that are remotely located. These institutions assist with the safeguarding of these assets.


The DWS, together with Water Service Authorities, have ongoing campaigns to raise public awareness about the impact of the theft and vandalism of water and sanitation infrastructure. In addition, municipalities are advised to secure water infrastructure and prevent vandalism and theft of infrastructure which causes water supply interruptions.

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

  
DR SEAN PHILLIPS  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL  
DATE: 24/10/23

DRAFT REPLY: APPROVED/ ~~NOT APPROVED~~/ ~~AMENDED~~

  
MR SENZO MCHUNU, MP  
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION  
DATE: 21/10/23