



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR ORAL REPLY

QUESTION NO 708

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

708. Ms D C Christians (Northern Cape: DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:

How is his department planning to enhance (a) transparency and (b) accountability in monitoring and reporting on water and sanitation infrastructure projects and their outcomes in light of the discrepancies between the official reports and the realities on the ground?

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MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has the responsibility to ensure oversight on all water and sanitation projects being implemented by municipalities funded through grants being managed by the DWS in line with the Division of Revenue Act (DORA).


The DWS is finalising a National Project Dashboard that will reflect the status and progress of all current grant funding projects implemented through Departmental intervention. This dashboard will also include historical projects dated back to 2007. The dashboard will be a live application on the DWS website open to view by the public as well as all sector role-players and will reflect programme milestones as well as project milestones related to all components of the project implementation cycle including communities to be served.

The DWS is currently implementing the following measures to ensure transparency and accountability on water and sanitation projects in various municipalities:

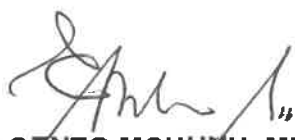
- Monthly and quarterly financial and non-financial reports submitted to the department by Implementing Agents/Municipalities/ Water Services Authorities are reviewed by Regional Projects Managers.
- All projects are being monitored through monthly meetings and reporting to ensure proper monitoring and ensure that what is reported corresponds with progress made on projects.
- Quarterly performance evaluation meetings/spot checks are conducted by DWS in line with the DORA. The aim of the quarterly performance evaluations is to ensure that all financial and non-financial milestones of each project are achieved for that particular quarter and financial year. This is done with all stakeholders of each project to ensure accountability where there is non-performance.
- The DWS Head Office ensures the accuracy of the project reports by undertaking monthly projects spot checks to ensure that the financial and non-financial reports are verified against progress made on the projects.
- Regional Project Managers verify work done on the projects before any invoice can be paid
- The Water Services Act also requires a Water Services Authority (WSA) to produce annual audit reports on the progress of projects identified Water Services Development Plan (WSDP).

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


DR SEAN PHILLIPS
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
 DATE: 19/10/23

DRAFT REPLY: APPROVED/ [✓] NOT APPROVED/ AMENDED


MR SENZO MCHUNU, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION
 DATE: 24/10/23