



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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### NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

#### FOR WRITTEN REPLY

#### QUESTION NO 729

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 20 OCTOBER 2023  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 41)

**729. Mr M A P De Bruyn (Free State: FF Plus) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:**

- (1) What are the reasons for the town of Wepener in the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality (a) not receiving water for more than a week and (b) being without water for more than 60 days already in 2023;
- (2) whether the said municipality owns any boreholes in Wepener; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) how many, (b) how many are operational and (c) how much water they deliver;
- (3) (a) how many megalitres of water are supplied to Wepener daily by the Vaal Central Water, (b) what amount should be provided according to the service level agreement and (c) when last was such an agreement renewed;
- (4) whether there are any discrepancies in this regard; if so, (a) why and (b) what are the further relevant details?

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

1. (a) The Vaal Central Water Board which is responsible for bulk water supply to Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality (MMM), encountered two pipe bursts in the month of October 2023. In addition, an Eskom power outage resulted in a veld fire that damaged the electrical poles supplying Welbedacht Water Treatment Works (WTW) causing an emergency twelve-hour shutdown of the plant. This affected MMM, including Wepener, for two days following each incident. However, the Vaal Central Water provided its water tanker to Wepener to ensure supply to communities during this period.

- (b) Furthermore, the water treatment works also experienced challenges of high turbidity which resulted in the plant not functioning properly.
2. (a) MMM has a total of seven (7) boreholes in Wepener,
- (b) None of the seven boreholes are currently operational.
- (c) No water is currently delivered from the non-operational boreholes. However, MMM has deployed two water tankers to supply water to areas not receiving water currently.
3. (a) Vaal Central Water supplies the area of Wepener with more than two megalitres per day (2,4192 ML/d) via gravity feed and just over three megalitres per day (3,1968 ML/d) via pumping.
- (b) The Service Level Agreement (SLA) signed in 2003 indicates that MMM required bulk water for 70% of its entire area and that the WTW at Maselspoort, which is owned and operated by MMM, would cater for 30% of supply to the northern parts of the city of Bloemfontein.
- (c) The review of the SLA is currently underway. The last SLA was signed in 2003.
4. (a) There are currently no discrepancies as Vaal Central Water is supplying the bulk water needed for the areas within MMM which it is responsible for.
- (b) It should be noted that there are now informal areas in most of the seven towns of MMM that require alternative water supply mechanisms. The boreholes in Wepener should be restored to functionality by MMM in order to augment water supply and further mitigate water supply challenges in the area.

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DRAFT REPLY: RECOMMENDED/ NOT RECOMMENDED/ AMENDED

  
**DR SEAN PHILLIPS**  
**DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

DATE: 07/11/23

DRAFT REPLY: APPROVED/ NOT APPROVED/ AMENDED

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

DATE: 14/11/23