



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Enquiries: CX Zwane  
Telephone: 082 802 3451  
Reference: 6/2/2/6

### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

### FOR WRITTEN REPLY

### QUESTION NO 1733

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 04 APRIL 2025

(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 14)

**1733. Mrs L F Tito (EFF) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:**

What (a) is the total number of dams that (i) the Republic has and (ii) are used to supply the citizens with water and (b) plans are in place to (i) conserve and (ii) harvest water for usage as we are approaching the winter season?

NW1812E

---00000---

### MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

- (a)(i) The total number of dams on the departmental register, that are classified as dams with a safety risk as defined in Section 117 of the National Water Act is 5707. These are dams with a vertical wall height of at least 5 meters and which can store more than 50 000 m<sup>3</sup> of water.
- (ii) According to the register referred to above, 621 dams that are registered with domestic supply as one of or the only use. Some of the above-mentioned dams have multiple purpose uses (*e.g domestic supply and industrial use; domestic supply and recreation etc.*), while others are registered for domestic supply use only.

- (b)(i) The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) manages its dams such that water is released during the rainy season to prevent overfilling and ensure full supply capacity at the start of the winter period. This is done using flood management protocols and engaging with the relevant stakeholders through the existing Stakeholders Operating Forums.
- (ii) At the end of the rainy season, the dam operation returns to normal using the established water supply and drought management operating rules.


---00000---

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

*Shillips*

**DR SEAN PHILLIPS**  
**DIRECTOR-GENERAL**  
**DATE: 14 April 2025**

✓  
DRAFT REPLY: APPROVED/ NOT APPROVED/ AMENDED

  
**MISS PEMMY C.P. MAJODINA, MP**  
**MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION**  
**DATE: 16/4/25**