



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Reference: 6/2/2/6

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR ORAL REPLY

QUESTION NO 99

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 03 MARCH 2026 (INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 05)

★99. Mr S L Dithebe (ANC) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:

- (1) By what date does she anticipate the completion of the first phase of the Bucket Eradication Programme in the Free State;
- (2) whether she has found that the specified programme is on track; if not, what are the reasons for the delay; if so, what are the relevant details?

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MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

- (1) It is anticipated that Bucket Eradication projects in the Free State will be completed by March 2027 despite delays that have been experienced.
- (2) Significant progress can be reported in the programme with some projects nearing practical completion hence the completion of one of the projects being anticipated in 2026/27. Notwithstanding the progress made in some projects, the contractor had to be terminated for the projects in Reitz and Petrus Steyn (Nketoana Local Municipality) due to poor performance as a result of cashflow challenges. The Department appointed its Construction Unit to complete the remaining scope of

works. Business Forums objected and suspended the commencement of these projects due to issues related to procurement processes and the participation of SMME's in the above projects.

In Ficksburg and Clocolan (Setsoto Local Municipality) a payment dispute resulted in the contractor moving off site and lodged a dispute with the relevant construction mediation body for arbitration. The arbitration process is still pending. Subsequently, the Department also issued the same contractor with a termination notice due to the delays in completing such projects. The Department will appoint its Construction Unit to complete the remaining scope of these two projects.

Other delays include procurement for long lead items e.g pumps and motor control centres for the various pumpstations, payment to Eskom for power supply to new pumpstations. Inclement weather from December 2025 to February has also affected production on site thus delaying progress for up to 3 days after the rain before work can commence again due to unsafe workspaces.

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DRAFT REPLY: RECOMMENDED/ NOT RECOMMENDED/ AMENDED

Phillips

**DR SEAN PHILLIPS
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
DATE: 06.03.2026**

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DRAFT REPLY: APPROVED/ NOT APPROVED/ AMENDED



**MISS PEMMY C.P. MAJODINA, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION
DATE: 08 | 03 | 2026**