

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 210

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(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 4)

210. Mr I E Jenner (ID) to ask the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry:

(a) What is the current backlog in the dam safety rehabilitation programme and (b) what are the relevant details of the infrastructure assets management programme?

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REPLY:

- (a) There is no backlog in the Dam Safety Rehabilitation Programme. The maintenance and rehabilitation of water resources infrastructure is an ongoing process. Inadequate resources were made available in the past for this purpose and the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry implemented a special programme for funding the maintenance and rehabilitation works required.
- (b) For the purpose of my reply I assumed that the Honourable Member is referring to the Dam Safety Rehabilitation Programme (DSRP) and not the Asset Management Programme.

The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry conducts regular statutory dam safety inspections to comply with Dam Safety Regulations. We also benchmark our practices against international best practice through our participation in the International Committee on Large Dams (ICOLD) and other international structures.

Out of the 165 dams, 46 were identified for rehabilitation and they have been prioritised based on the criticality of the dams. Work on seven dams has been completed to date, while the balance is at various stages, varying from planning to design and construction.