

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO 359**

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**(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 8)**

**359. Mr M W Sibuyana (IFP) to ask the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry:**

- (1) Whether she has been informed that the Sigagula community is sharing water with animals from a dam constructed by the former Gazankulu government specifically for animals; if so,
- (2) whether she will take any steps to rectify this situation; if not, why not; if so, what steps?

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**REPLY:**

- (1) Prior to 2004, the community of Sigagula, was supplied by two boreholes with pumps driven by diesel engines. The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry subsequently converted these into electrically driven pumps. However, these boreholes were not yielding sufficient water to meet the needs of the community. In 2004, the Department also installed a water treatment package plant that takes the water from the dam the Honourable Member refers to, purifies it and then supplies the village. Currently the village is supplied with potable water from the dam and although the water in the dam is also used for stock-watering, the water supplied to the community is safe to drink after it has been treated.
- (2) If there is a problem with the treatment plant, the boreholes are used to supply water while the plant is being repaired. Departmental personnel are seconded to the Municipality to continuously monitor the supply to the plant as part of their normal day to day duties.