

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 360

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

Whether she plans to visit Bushbuckridge in order to gain first-hand experience of the current water shortages for both domestic and economic use; if not, why not; if so, when?

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REPLY:

The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry and I are aware of the water shortages in the Bushbuckridge area and in the light thereof a visit to gain first-hand experience is not necessary. My Department, together with its stakeholder partners are currently working together to deal with the issue of inadequate water supply to some communities in Bushbuckridge.

Whilst some of the underlying causes to the inadequate supply are due to lack of maintenance to infrastructure and associated operational skills, a large cause is the lack of sufficient bulk infrastructure to deliver water from the recently completed Inyaka Dam.

Currently, construction of the bulk supply lines from the Inyaka Treatment Works to Acornhoek, Dwarsloop, Thulamahashe, Lydlow, Marite, Mkhuhlu, Agricourt and other areas is underway. To date, approximately R200 million has been spent in implementing this project. It is estimated that by the time this massive project is completed, some R700 million would have been spent.

A budget of R7,4 million has been allocated to Bushbuckridge to refurbish the rural boreholes in the 2008/09 financial year. This project is at its implementation stage.