

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR ORAL REPLY ON WEDNESDAY, 12 MARCH 2008

QUESTION NO 60

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(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER 6)

★60. Ms T E Lishivha (ANC) to ask the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry:

What progress has been made in providing the free basic water quota in respect of sanitation?

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REPLY:

Good progress has been made to provide all South Africans with access to water supply and municipalities report that 72,5% of poor people receive a specific volume of water as Free Basic Water (FBW). The normal FBW allocation of 6 kilolitre (kl) (6 000 litres) per household per month is sufficient for basic human needs and where people have dry types of sanitation, such as Ventilated Improved Pit-latrines (VIPs). The 6 kl does, however, not provide sufficient water for waterborne sanitation. Several municipalities are providing an additional allocation free of charge or at a lower rate to cater for flush (waterborne) toilets to poor people.

It was clear some time ago that we needed a strategy for Free Basic Sanitation (FBSan) and after this Strategy had been developed the following process was followed:

- a) The draft FBSan was considered by me, but due to the significant implications for municipalities, I instructed the officials to further consult with municipalities.
- b) As part of this further consultation process, a workshop with municipalities and the South African Local Government

Association (SALGA) was held where an updated version of this Strategy was presented.

- c) It is planned to complete the revision process of the Strategy once comments from SALGA have been received, whereafter the Strategy will be submitted to Cabinet for approval, hopefully in the second quarter of 2008.
- d) Once approved, FBSan must be rolled out gradually taking into account municipal managerial capacity, financial viability, ability to operate and maintain systems, billing at affordable levels, acceptable payment level and proper use of the Equitable Share.
- e) It must be accepted that all municipalities are not the same with their vastly different capacity and financial resources and they will have to approach the FBSan in line with their implementation capacity.