

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR ORAL REPLY ON WEDNESDAY, 12 MARCH 2008

QUESTION NO 62

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★62. Mrs L S Chikunga (ANC) to ask the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry:

- (1) Whether, in light of water cuts at Mpuluzi in Mpumalanga, any steps will be taken to ensure that people get their six free kilolitres of water; if not, why not; if so, what steps;
- (2) whether there are any future plans to ensure that they benefit from a constant water supply to boost the economy; if so, what plans? NO881E

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REPLY:

- (1) Yes, the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) has implemented measures to ensure water supply to meet basic human needs during periods that water is cut off. DWAF, through its operations and maintenance fund, hired water tanks utilizing Public and Private Partnerships (PPP) and Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (BBBEE) policies with the aid of Ward Councillors. JoJo tankers have been placed at strategic points within the communities to ensure easy access by communities to those areas where there is erratic supply.

The Mpumalanga Provincial Department of Local Government and Housing has appointed a multi-disciplinary team of service providers to ensure that free basic services are rendered in the province by municipalities. Following the transfer of schemes by DWAF, it has allocated funding for rehabilitation of infrastructure that had been transferred.

(2) DWAF, through the 2007/08 and 2008/09 Division of Revenue Allocation, has respectively made R2 942 000 and R4 104 000 available to the Albert Luthuli Local Municipality to refurbish the following water schemes:

- Mpuluzi Raw Water Scheme;
- Clear Water Pump Station;
- Booster Pump Station;
- Lusushwana Water Scheme; and
- Methula Water Scheme

and the refurbishment will commence soon.

The Province has embarked on Water for All projects whereby all people of Mpumalanga will receive free basic water and a high level of service. The total cost of this project is R3,6 billion, whereby R1,1 billion is available on the current Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and the shortfall is being sought from other institutions and National Treasury.

An upgraded pipeline to the booster pump station and clear water pump, with more capacity in terms of water supply, has been completed. The work on the raw water pump is about 80% complete and this will provide enough raw water to the Mpuluzi Treatment Works to be purified. The dosing system is also being refurbished.

The Gert Sibande District Municipality has also allocated R4,2 million for 2008/09 financial year for upgrading of water supply to the affected area.