

## **NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

### **FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

#### **QUESTION NO 737**

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**737. Mrs D van der Walt (DA) to ask the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry:**

Whether her department has finalised a report on determining which water boards are not viable; if not, when will the report be finalised; if so, (a) what are the relevant details and (b) when will the relevant boards be dissolved?

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**REPLY:**

It is unclear to what report is the Honorable Van der Walt referring to as there is not a formal report available on the financial viability of all water boards although an investigation was done for two water boards in Mpumalanga namely Bushbuckridge and Ekangala. I am still studying the results of this particular report.

In general I can confidently say that water boards are financially viable but the greatest risk that threatens their cash flow situation is municipalities that do not settle their outstanding debt. My department is working with National Treasury and effected water boards to resolve this. One early achievement in this regard is that my department successfully facilitated a settlement between Umsunduzi Municipality and Umgeni Water over outstanding debt that was in excess of R 65 million.