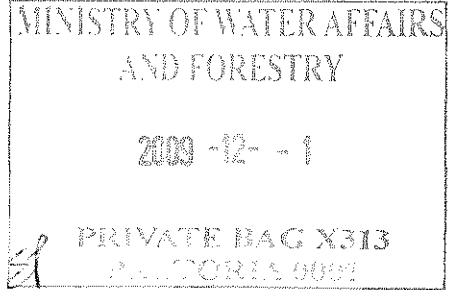




**water affairs**

Department:  
Water and Environmental Affairs  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**





Enquiries: B Ngubo  
Telephone: 031-336-2700  
Reference: 6/2/2/6

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES: QUESTION 33 FOR ORAL REPLY**

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mrs N W Magadla (ANC-KZN), is attached for your consideration, please.

  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)  
DATE: 1-12-09  
DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/ AMENDED

  
MS B P SONJICA, MP  
MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
DATE: 2009/12/01

## NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

### FOR ORAL REPLY

### QUESTION NO 33

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 07SEPTEMBER 2009  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO)

**Mrs N W Magadla (ANC-KZN) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:**

Whether there is a plan in place to assist with the backlog of water in the rural area of Umzimkhulu in KwaZulu-Natal; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, when will it be implemented to address the challenges of water in that area?

CO101E

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### **REPLY:**

No. In terms of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act No. 108 of 1996), it is the responsibility of local government/ municipalities to ensure provision of water services to all within its areas of jurisdiction.

As a result of the authorizations published in 2004 by the former Minister of Provincial and Local Government, the Sisonke District Municipality (DM) is the Water Services Authority (WSA). In terms of the Water Services Act, 1997 (Act No. 108 of 1997) Water Services Authority are responsible for the provision of water and sanitation services in their areas of jurisdiction. In this case, the Sisonke District Municipality is responsible for water services in all five local municipalities within its jurisdiction.

The Umzimkulu Local Municipality (LM) was moved from the Alfred Nzo District Municipality in the Eastern Cape to the Sisonke District Municipality in KwaZulu-Natal at the end of 2006.

In terms of funding for water services, the Sisonke District Municipality makes use of the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) Programme, administered by the provincial Department of Local Government and Traditional Affairs. In the last financial year the Sisonke DM utilised all of its R86, 94 million MIG allocations, 90% (R77, 85 million) of which was spent on water and sanitation provision. From 2006 to date my Department through its regional sector appraising committee, has recommended projects submitted by the Sisonke DM for MIG funding worth more than R221 million for the Umzimkulu area.

Recently, the Department made contact with the Sisonke DM and established that there are some 13 water projects that have been completed and are being handed over for community use. These projects include the refurbishment of inherited schemes including water schemes, upgrading of sewer outfall pipelines and pump-stations, and the upgrading of Umzimkulu water treatment plant. Buckets in town were eradicated and replaced with a water-borne sanitation system.

The Sisonke District Municipality is in process with the implementation of a number of other projects including:

- R10, 7 million Umzimkhulu Water Supply project; and
- R6 million urban and peri-urban sanitation projects.

Plans have recently been approved to extend the Ebovini / Emanzabekweni water project and a number of springs have been prioritized for protection.

In January 2009, a new initiative was piloted by the Sisonke DM with funding from the Danish International Aid Organization to improve community use and management of water resources. To date, out of 18 wards in Umzimkulu, nine Community Health Clubs have been established.

People have been trained in skills which include health and hygiene, rainwater harvesting and spring protection. Many of them have completed the health promotion curriculum and are ready to celebrate their achievements during the community health club graduation ceremony scheduled for September 2009.

Although significant progress has been made in the area with the refurbishment of schemes and the provision of water and sanitation to those who have not had access to services, a great deal of work still needs to be done. The provincial Department of Local Government and Traditional Affairs and My Department will continue to support and regulate the District to ensure it fulfills its constitutional mandate.

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