



## water affairs

Department:  
Water Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

2010 -10- 22

PRIVATE BAG X313  
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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 2828 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mr. M J Ellis (DA); is attached for your consideration.

  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE:

22/10/10

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

  
MS B P SONJICA, MP  
MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DATE:

24. 10. 2010

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 2828

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 15 OCTOBER 2010  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 31)

**2828. Mr M J Ellis (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:**

- (1) Whether the towns of (a) Mtubatuba and (b) St Lucia in KwaZulu-Natal have been experiencing any problems with shortage of supply of potable water; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (i) what efforts are being made to ensure that these towns have a sustainable supply of potable water and (ii) what are the further relevant details? NW3509E

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**REPLY:**

- (1) Yes, Mtubatuba and St Lucia towns are currently experiencing severe problems with a shortage of water due to drying up of the Mfolozi River as their main source of supply caused by the drought over the catchment. It should be recorded that large parts of KwaZulu-Natal province have experienced less than 75% of the average annual long term rainfall over the past six to seven years resulting in underground water sources and smaller rivers drying up.
- (1)(i) My Department is supporting the Water Services Authority (WSA), UMkhanyakude District Municipality responsible for the area to remedy the situation for both towns through the following;
- The provision of funds of R110 million from the Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant to augment the abstraction of water from the Mfolozi River.
  - The development of a new borehole field in the area of the treatment works.
  - The increased capacity of the treatment works
  - The construction of additional storage reservoirs and a new bulk distribution pipeline to connect the works at Mtubatuba to St Lucia towns which will also serve the rural settlements at Dukuduku along the route.
- The scheme will be completed by the WSA with the support of the Mhlathuze Water Board by December 2011.
- (1)(ii) The drilling and equipping of the borehole field will be accelerated to be completed by January 2011 and concurrently with a water loss reduction management intervention the situation will be significantly improved.

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