



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

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PRETORIA 0001

Enquiries: T Badenhorst
Telephone: 031-336-2762
Reference: 6/2/2/6

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES: QUESTION 224 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mr D D Gamede (ANC-KZN); is attached for your consideration.


DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 8/8/10


DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED


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

DATE: 08/06/2010

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 224

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 04 JUNE 2010
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 15)

224. Mr D D Gamede (ANC-KZN) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) (a) What studies had been done to prove that the building of dams in the rural areas of Gingindlovu, Nkandla and Mkuze will not be feasible, (b) how sustainable is the supply of water through water cans in the said rural areas and (c) how effective is that as opposed to piped water;
- (2) whether the grant which is given to district municipalities is being used optimally; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether she has been informed that the communities are without water most of the time as alleged in the Uthungulu report; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

- (1)(a) The following information regarding the rural areas of Gingindlovu, Nkandla and Mkuze is available:
 - Gingindlovu town receives water from the Matigulu River with constraints on the capacity of the treatment works. The capacity of the works can be expanded. The rural areas will be supplied from the Greater Mtojaneni Regional Bulk Scheme currently under construction which is supplied with water from the Goedertrouw Dam at Eshowe.
 - The rural area of Nkandla is supplied with water from the Mhlathuze River. The current Middeldrift bulk scheme can be expanded. An alternative currently being investigated is to meet the water requirements of Nkandla by building a dam on one of the tributaries of the Mhlathuze River. The Uthungulu District Municipality undertook an assessment of building a dam on the Nsuze River to supply the rural areas of northern Vutshini. This appears to be a feasible option with the dam being sized to be able to also supply rural areas on Nkandla.
 - The Mkuze area can be supplied from Pongolapoort Dam which has sufficient water.
- (1)(b) Supply of water through road water tankers to static tanks to fill household containers is not sustainable and is only done during times of serious drought conditions which affect the local boreholes and other sources which communities still use as rudimentary source of water.
- (1)(c) Road water tankering is extremely expensive. In terms of Government policy all households will be served by piped water systems within an acceptable walking distance from their dwellings by 2014.

- (2) The Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) funds available to Water Services Authority (WSA) municipalities for extension of water services are being monitored by the provincial Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) and by the Department of Water Affairs. More than 80% of funds to WSA municipalities in KwaZulu-Natal is being allocated to water services infrastructure per annum. In my opinion, the WSAs in KwaZulu-Natal are using the grant funding optimally in line with priorities set by the relevant councils.
- (3) My Department is aware of the current water shortages in the north-eastern part of KwaZulu-Natal. This is mainly as a result of a prolonged drought in the area with well below average rainfall over the past five to six years which has affected underground water and caused boreholes and springs feeding the local streams to dry up. The WSAs are doing their best to cover these areas with road water tankers as an emergency arrangement.

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