



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

[edke]

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 3149 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above question asked by Mr L Ramatlakane (Cope) is attached for your consideration.

ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 12/12/11

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/~~AMENDED~~

MRS B E E MOLEWA, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DATE: 20/11/2012

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 3149

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 14 OCTOBER 2011
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 31)

3149. Mr L Ramatlakane (Cope) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether her department's dam building programme in Limpopo is (a) on schedule, (b) meeting required specifications and (c) holds any benefits for the poor people in Limpopo; if not, why not, in each case; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether any incidents of corruption have been reported in the construction of the dams, including Nandoni and De Hoop Dam; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what checks and balances have been put in place in this regard;
- (3) whether people receive clean tap water from Nandoni and De Hoop Dams; if not, why not; if so, which dams supply the tap water;
- (4) whether distribution from the Dam is in good condition; if not, why not; if so, why (a) do the people of Nzhelele, Phiphidi and Shayandima regularly experience long water shut-offs and (b) does the Makhado municipality regularly close off communities' tap water for hours and days without notice;
- (5) whether her department intends to ensure that (a) people's constitutional right to water is protected in this regard and (b) this constitutional provision is complied with in Limpopo; if not, in each case, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details in each case?

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REPLY:

- (1)(a) The built programme of the Department in Limpopo is behind schedule.

The ORWRP Phase 2A (De Hoop Dam) is scheduled for completion by the end of 2012. Unfortunately the work was delayed due to inclement weather, two industrial actions and additional groundwork work had to be carried out because of unforeseen excavation challenges.

The ORWRDP (Bulk Distribution System) was delayed because the TCTA could not obtain private funding to start this work in time. This resulted in the Department requesting the National Treasury for funding. This resulted in a delay of this project. The Department is planning to re-prioritize its CAPEX budget to make room for this project. The plan is to begin this project in April 2012 under the re-prioritized part of the plan and to complete the project by 2016 as a conservative forecast; or by 2015 on an accelerated basis.

Nandoni Dam:

The dam was completed in 2005; however the construction of the Nandoni Bulk Distribution System must still be completed.

- During a meeting with the Traditional Leaders, Executive Mayor, Senior officials of the District and Local Municipalities, officials of the Department and also the community representatives at Nandoni Dam on 21 November 2011, concerns

were raised with respect to the delay in the completion of the Nandoni Bulk Distribution System and the outstanding recommendations of the Office of the Public Protector Report dated 2009 (some of which are deemed to be outside of the Department's mandate and responsibilities). All of these recommendations are to be dealt with by the Department in terms of cooperative governance arrangements.

- I have since instructed the Department to ensure that this project is prioritised and fast tracked in terms of the accelerated action plan to ensure that the communities receive reliable water supply services as soon as possible. In response to the Public Protector Report the Department was instructed must meet with the Office of the Public Protector (OPP) and community representatives on 22 November 2011 to finalise all outstanding matters relating to the dam and also to form a task team to resolve disputes and other complaints with reference to the above report (by the Public Protector Report) and to complete most of this work by the middle of the next year 2012.

Nwamitwa Dam:

Funds are currently available for phase one (1) of the Greater Letaba Water Augmentation Project which will be use for the Implementation Plans, the rehabilitation and repairing and refurbishing of existing municipal water infrastructure in this area which including water treatment plant and boreholes to ensure reliable water supply infrastructure in the interim.

It should also be noted that with regards to the proposed Nwamitwa Dam the record of decision has been received recently allowing the Department to proceed with the preparatory work which is required prior to commencing with construction. Refer below for programme schedules:

- Phase 1 – Refurbishment of existing infrastructures (commence 2012);
- Phase 2 – Raising of Tzaneen dam (late 2012);
- Phase 3 – Building of Nwamitwa dam (start 2013);
- Phase 4 – Nwamitwa bulk distribution (start 2014); and
- Phase 5 – Nwamitwa secondary distribution (start 2015).

- (1)(b) Yes, the Department's dam building programme in Limpopo is meeting the required specifications.
- (1)(c) Yes, the Department's dam building programme in Limpopo holds benefits for the poor as drinking water will be available to them in the various areas where the dams are being built including the neighbouring villages. The projects will also bring with socio economic development. (i.e. the development of agricultural irrigation schemes and utilising sub-contractors and operators from the area).
- (2) To date no incidences of corruption have been reported to me on the De Hoop Dam and the bulk distribution system from the De Hoop Dam around the Nebo Plateau. There are suspected irregularities on the Nandoni project, which resulted in the installation of faulty pipes. Currently, this project and its related processes are undergoing a forensic audit. Once the forensic audit is completed, the necessary corrective actions and recommendations will be implemented. Related legal issues are being handled by the state attorneys.

The systems in place to deal with incidences of corruption include:

- the reporting of the incident to the relevant departmental structures which include the Internal Audit, Risk Management and Labour Relations units as well as any other relevant external organs of state;

- the immediate investigation of the incident to establish the relevant facts and evidence; and
 - the delivery of the incident report to the relevant manager/s for implementation of the findings.
- (3) No, currently nobody is receiving drinking water from the De Hoop Dam as it is still under construction. The Nandoni Dam is supplying potable water to some users i.e. to 259 000 people (of the total potential of 1 163 000 people in the Vhembe District) who will be served after the completion of the Nandoni Bulk Distribution System. These people who are not yet receiving water from Nandoni Dam at this point in time are utilizing water from boreholes, Vondo Dam, Albasini Dam and Middle Letaba Dam.
- (4) No, the distribution of water from the Dam is not what it should be due to the following reasons:
- The scheme is old as it was constructed in 1963/4 which makes it 47 years old.
 - The scheme initially consisted of a 560 kVA hydro-electric power plant, a 1 750 kℓ/day purification plant, a pumping station, two reservoirs with a combined capacity of 2 200 kℓ and 11 km of pipelines. The current capacity of the scheme is 64 mega liters of water a day. The scheme is currently using Eskom power. Water was to be supplied to all the villages between Phiphidi and Sibasa, including the towns of Sibasa, Makwarela and Shayandima and Tshilidzini hospital.
- (4)(a) The Shayandima and Phiphidi community do experience water shutoffs for short periods due to the following reasons:
- the aging infrastructure of the scheme;
 - budget constraints to refurbish the old infrastructure and or the upgrading of the purification plant;
 - the village reservoir and the reticulation;
 - budget constraints to perform preventative maintenance;
 - a combination of infrastructure bottle necks; and
 - demand management and cost recovery measures which are not in place.

As a solution, the Department initiated a refurbishment programme which commenced in 2003/4 to refurbish the plant, buildings and the reservoir, and the work was transferred to the Vhembe District Municipality (DM) as the water services authority (WSA) who is busy with the refurbishments and the replacing of the A/C pipes. The demand-exceeding-supply-challenge will be addressed by the Nandoni Water Scheme which is expected to be ready and functioning in 2013. There is an advertised bid to construct a bulk pipeline and a reservoir that will be linked to the Nandoni Water Scheme. The bid is currently at adjudication stage.

The Nzhelele community experience water shutoffs for long periods due to the following reasons:

- there is a need for refurbishment of the old infrastructure and/or the upgrading of the purification plant, village reservoir and the reticulation;
- unavailability of cost recovery measures;
- vandalism of infrastructure and;
- unauthorised connections of water pipes.

As a solution, the Department initiated a refurbishment programme which commenced in 2003/4 to refurbish the plant, buildings and the reservoir; and the work was transferred to the Water Service Authority (WSA).

The WSA has upgraded the Mutshedzi water treatment plant and it has been commissioned this year. However, the plant is still not meeting the demand and is to be further upgraded as the Phase 6 project. The WSA has advertised the bid for the refurbishment and upgrading of the bulk pipeline and boreholes. The briefing session was held on 24 November 2011.

- (4)(b) Water is not available for 24 hours as the Makhado Local Municipality is a large area that covers schemes including the Nzhelele, Kutama-Sinthumule, Albasin, Middle-Letaba, Tshitale, Tshakhuma, Vondo and borehole schemes. Yes, the communities are notified whenever water cut-offs are expected, and the communities are aware that water is only available certain hours per day since the reservoirs have to be filled first before water can be released to the reticulation systems.
- (5)(a) Yes, the Water Services Act, 1997 (Act No. 108 of 1997) and the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) are aligned with the Constitution of the country which makes the provision of water a right for all South Africans. The Department is structured in such a way that these two laws are being rolled out and implemented.
- (5)(b) Yes, the projects are ongoing to ensure that there is access to water for our people in Limpopo in accordance with the Constitution.

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