



## water affairs

Department:  
Water Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

2011-03-28

PRIVATE BAG X313  
PRETORIA 0001

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### MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

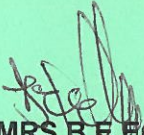
### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 583 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mr K M Zondi (IFP); is attached for your consideration.

  
ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 25/03/2011

### DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

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

DATE: 29-3-2011

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 583

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 07 MARCH 2011  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 04)

**583. Mr K M Zondi (IFP) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:**

Whether her department intends prioritising the provision of clean and potable water to the communities of Umkhanyakude District Municipality; if not, why not; if so, (a) when and (b) what are the further relevant details?

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**REPLY:**

- (a) Government set a national target for all water services backlogs to currently un-served communities in the country to be cleared by 2014. The three spheres of Government work in close collaboration to achieve this target. The Umkhanyakude District Municipality (DM) as the water services authority for all local municipalities in the district is the leading institution to ensure service delivery in their area of responsibility. In this, they are supported by the Department and the Provincial Government Departments.
- (b) The Department as the custodian of water provides full support to all water services authority/ municipalities through the following interventions:
- With regards to the management of water resources and licensing of water use, a number of licenses for abstraction of water from boreholes and local sources in the Umkhanyakude district have been awarded and a license application from the Umkhanyakude DM, for major water abstraction from the Pongola Poort Dam at Jozini, is currently being processed for award.
  - Through various incentives such as the Blue Drop and Green Drop regulation programmes, the Department prioritised support to all municipalities to improve and sustain high quality of water service provision to all consumers. Specific interventions have been extended to the Umkhanyakude DM to train water works operators and improve the asset management systems in the municipality.
  - The Department's Regional Bulk Infrastructure Programme enables water services authorities to link existing developed resources to local community schemes to sustain water service delivery during periods of drought. The programme that started with the Hlabisa Scheme in 2008 currently funds the development of three major schemes at Hlabisa, Mtubatuba (i) St. Lucia and Jozini (ii) Ingwavuma in the uMkhanyakude District to a total amount of R426 million over the next four years. Thus far, (i) Phase 1 of the Hlabisa Scheme has been completed and the whole scheme will be completed in 2012 (ii) The Mtubatuba – St. Lucia Scheme is scheduled for completion in 2013 (iii) The Jozini – Ingwavuma scheme is developed in phases of which the first phase closest to the dam will be operational late in 2011 and thereafter a new phase will be put into operation every year. The whole scheme, sustaining current water supply to Ingwavuma, will be operational by 2015.

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