



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1578 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above mentioned question asked by Mr J H van der Merwe (IFP) is attached for your consideration.

ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 27/06/11

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

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

DATE: 11.07.2011

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1578

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 17 JUNE 2011
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 17)

1578. Mr J H van der Merwe (IFP) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) What is the standard average monthly amount of water supplied to residents in the (a) Dukuduku and (b) St Lucia areas in KwaZulu-Natal over the past five years;
- (2) Whether these residents are currently receiving only 40% of their usual water supply; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) what are the reasons for this water crisis and (b) when will it be resolved;
- (3) Whether any steps have been taken to ensure that this situation does not re-occur; if not, why not; if so, what steps?

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REPLY:

- (1)(a) & (b) The Dukuduku and St Lucia areas are supplied water from the Mtubatuba/Kwamsane Water Treatment Works. These water treatment works abstract water from the Mfolozi River which is not regulated by a storage dam at the point of abstraction. The water supply is therefore fluctuating with availability of water in the river in any given month. Due to the fluctuation in meteorological conditions from month to month and year to year, it is impossible to determine an average of required supply since during some months, the supply will be 100% while in other months, the supply could be restricted (such as during the month of June where the average supply is approximately 56% of normal).
- (2) Due to drought conditions, the area has experienced regular water restrictions. Water supply varies from full supply during summer to severe shortages during the winter. The average supply during the month of June is approximately 56% of normal supply.
- (2)(a) Due to the most severe prolonged drought conditions in KwaZulu-Natal recorded since 1996, the winter flow in the Mfolozi River dropped annually to below the total need of the area served by the Mtubatuba/Kwamsane Water Treatment Works over the past number of years. This required various levels of water use restrictions to be implemented during months of low river flow.
- (2)(b) The uMkhanyakude District Municipality, which is the water services authority for the area, has commenced with the implementation of a water supply upgrade scheme to serve the Mtubatuba, Kwamsane, Dukuduku and St Lucia areas. The scheme is co-funded by various institutions/ funding i.e. the Department of Water Affairs, Department of Human Settlement and Municipal Infrastructure Grant. As components of the scheme are being completed, an improvement to water supply in the area will be experienced from the latter half of 2011, to completion towards 2013.

- (3) Water shortages may still be experienced during the current winter months when the flow in the Mfolozi River is low, however, the upgrade scheme entails
- the reduction of water losses in certain portions of the Kwamsane reticulation system
 - the drilling of boreholes along the Mfolozi River to augment the low winter flow of the river
 - upgrading the abstraction and treatment capacity
 - Increasing the pipeline sizes and reservoir storage from Mtubatuba to Dukuduku and St Lucia areas.

Once the augmentation from ground water and the upgrade of the water treatment works and pipelines are in place, overall stability will be experienced in water supply.

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