



## water affairs

Department:  
Water Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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Reference: 6/2/1

### MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

#### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 243 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above question asked by Mrs N W A Michael (DA) is attached for your consideration.

*U. Sibanyqa*

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 27/02/2012

<sup>as</sup>  
DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

*Error - P be amend and send through to Parliament*

*Amended*

*B. E. Molewa*

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

DATE: 2012/02/09

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 243

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 17 February 2012  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 02)

243. Mrs N W A Michael (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether the Department of Water Affairs has (a) commissioned or (b) funded any studies into water losses in the Joe Gqabi District Municipality; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details of water losses for each town;
- (2) whether she has put any measures in place to assist the district municipality or relevant local municipalities to reduce water losses; if not, why not; if so, what measures?

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**REPLY:**

- (1) The Department has commissioned and funded a number of water conservation demand management initiatives (refer to 2 below) in the Joe Gqabi District Municipality (DM). The studies confirmed high water losses between 30% and 45% as well as very limited available information on water metering and control.
- (2) Since 2008, the Department has funded a number of water conservation demand management projects into water losses in the Joe Gqabi DM to assist the Municipality to reduce the water losses as follows:
  - a) In a 2008 partnership between the Department and the Joe Gqabi DM, a Water Conservation Unit staffed with four officials was established in the Municipality with an amount of R1 500 000 from the Department. The four officials were then trained to conduct awareness campaigns on water conservation and demand management projects as well as identifying and rectifying water problems.
  - b) In 2010, the Department allocated an amount of R 230 000 to the Joe Gqabi DM towards a meter reading training session in order to improve skills in meter reading. The training assisted officials in obtaining the correct water usage in readings which has enabled the Joe Gqabi DM to establish the amount of water losses throughout the Municipality areas.
  - c) In 2011, the Department allocated an amount of R1 000 000 to the Joe Gqabi DM to implement water conservation and demand management projects in Burgersdorp where an unacceptable leak challenges were experienced. The main challenges occurred in the old Reconstruction Development Programme houses where inferior toilet cisterns were installed. A further amount of R2 000 000 was then allocated to enhance the above-mentioned project and spread it to other communities.
  - d) In 2012, an amount of R750 000 has been allocated to replace the filter sand at the Burgersdorp Water Treatment Works to address the water losses experienced due to too much backwashing and to do urgent leak repairs in Barkley East, Lady Grey and Gariep Municipality.

In summary, the above initiatives have reduced the water losses from 45% to 30%. Such achievement should also be viewed in the context that the introduction of metering (mentioned in 2b above) also revealed additional losses. In addition to the achieved water losses, the Joe Gqabi DM attained a Blue and Green Drop Certification during 2011.

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