



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 3111 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

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

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE:

21/11/2012

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

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

DATE:

2012/11/29

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 3111

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 09 NOVEMBER 2012
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 39)

3111. Mr D A Kganare (Cope) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether her department has a master plan to ensure that all households in South Africa are provided with safe drinking water; if not, why not; if so, (a) what will the implementation of the master plan cost and (b) what are the further relevant details;
- (2) whether a business plan has been compiled in this regard; if not, why not; if so, when will the implementation be rolled out?

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REPLY:

- (1) Since 1994 the Department of Water Affairs developed and maintained a comprehensive water services management framework, master plan and implementation programme to ensure that all people have access to safe drinking water. This framework consisted of policy & legislation, dedicated funding, an extensive information system, implementation support, leadership and monitoring system.

Based on the Constitution which mandates municipalities to be accountable for water services delivery and performance, the total basic water services programme and associated funding were transferred to local government in the 2002/3 financial year. Since then the programme is overseen and managed by the Department of Cooperative Governance.

At present the Basic Water Services programme consists of two core programmes:

- The first is the programme to provide water to those households that have houses but lack access to safe drinking water, i.e. a programme focusing on historical backlogs in mainly rural areas. This programme is managed by the Department of Cooperative Governance.
- The second programme is that of housing related needs focusing on informal settlements, the housing programme and associated needs. This programme is managed by the Department of Human Settlements.
- Both these programmes are supported by extensive grants managed and overseen by the respective departments.

Since 2003 DWA's role consists of maintaining policy, providing information support as well as implementation, planning and management support. Except for supporting municipalities to develop and maintain local water master plans as part of their Water Services Development Plans, the master delivery plan was not maintained.

Based on the goal of government to ensure effective services as well as meeting the targets, the Outcome 9 Delivery Agreement has been refined to mandate Sector Departments to assume specific sector performance responsibilities in terms of leadership, coordination and oversight. In line with this refined agreement DWA has recently accepted its oversight responsibility.

Extensive work is presently being undertaken to establish and validate the actual needs and to develop regional and local delivery master plans for the Priority 24 rural District Municipalities in partnership with the relevant Water Services Authorities. To provide safe and sustainable water to all households will cost an additional estimated R 90 billion which figure may vary depending on the level of service as well as the availability of sufficient water resource infrastructure such as dams and major regional transfer infrastructure. All these programmes and activities are done in collaboration with the Department of Cooperative Governance and National Treasury. This is supported through various other programmes such as the Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant (RBIG) programme, planning and local municipal support, as well as a Water Investment Framework and Drinking Water Quality Management System.

- (2) The Department has also initiated an interim service delivery programme targeting those communities that have not yet been served. A comprehensive business plan to ensure that critical backlogs are addressed by 2014 has been developed and the implementation process has been initiated. This implementation takes place within the existing Basic Services Plan. It is expected that the comprehensive and revised updated master plan will be available by March 2013.

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