



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Enquiries: Mr Muller
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Reference: 2/1/5/1

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 467 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above question asked by Mr. G R Morgan (DA) is attached for your consideration.

M. Swieya

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 09/03/2012 ✓

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED^{as}/AMENDED
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B. E. Molewa

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

DATE: 2012/03/17

NOTE: Minister was told in a Management meeting that it is not possible to give these estimates - now where did this come from? ✓

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 467

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 02 March 2012
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 06)

467. Mr G R Morgan (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) What estimated number of people (a) nationwide and (b) in each province does not yet have access to potable water;
- (2) (a) what estimated number of people gained access to potable water during the period 1 April 2011 up to the latest specified date for which information is available and (b) how does this figure compare with the goal that her department had set for the same period;
- (3) when does she envisage that all citizens will have access to potable water?

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REPLY:

- (1)(a) The estimated number of people nationwide that do not have access to a basic potable water supply as at December 2011 is 2,8 million which equal 5.6% of the national population.

Please note that this figure reflects people without access to an acceptable level of infrastructure.

- (1)(b) Provincial breakdown (in millions) is as follows:

Province	Total Population	Water Backlog April 2011	People Served April to Dec 2011	Water Backlog Dec 2011
Eastern Cape	6.1	0.54	0.12	0.42
Free State	2.8	0.02	0.01	0.01
Gauteng	12.4	0.10	0.004	0.09
KwaZulu-Natal	10.5	1.45	0.14	1.31
Limpopo	5.0	0.64	0.10	0.54
Mpumalanga	3.7	0.27	0.04	0.23
Northern Cape	1.1	0.05	0.01	0.04
North West	3.2	0.21	0.03	0.18
Western Cape	5.5	0.02	0.004	0.01
National	50	3.29	0.45	2.84

Please note these figures are based on STATSSA figures adjusted with reports from the Department of Cooperative Governance and Human Settlement. The Department is busy with a comprehensive validation process to confirm these figures.

The unfortunate reality, however, is that there are people with access to infrastructure who still cannot enjoy full benefits due to poor infrastructure. It is estimated that up to 25% of people have access to a tap but without an acceptable level of service and for this reason government will focus on the upgrading of dilapidated infrastructure.

- (2)(a) It is estimated that 450 000 (0.45million) people were served with a basic water supply during the period April 2011 to December 2011.
- (2)(b) This is below the goal set due to several impacting factors such as scheme extent (size of schemes to be built), as well as the lack of sufficient water resources close to some communities and the fact that available funds are not fully directed at targets by all municipalities.
- (3) Although we have reached the target of the 2015 MDG, the target as stated in Outcome 9 is 100% of people to have access to a basic water supply by 2014. Based on existing delivery or infrastructure in poor condition this may not be achieved in all provinces especially those provinces with large rural areas such as KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo and Eastern Cape.

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