



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



EdST

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES: QUESTION 129 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above by Mr V M Manzini (DA-Mpumalanga) is attached for your consideration.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 23/03/2012

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

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

DATE: 11/04/2012.

Excel *Response Revised 11/04/12.*
- Hold on to this until we discuss when I land in JHB (26/03/2012)

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 129

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 16 MARCH 2012
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 07)

129. Mr V M Manzini (DA-Mpumalanga) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether the community of Bushbuckridge in Mpumalanga has access to bulk water supply; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether the bulk water infrastructure project has been replaced; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) why and (b) what are the further relevant details;
- (3) whether the employment practices of the Inyaka Water Supply Project have been found to be fair and transparent; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) whether she will launch an investigation into the matter; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

- (1) Only 40% of the Bushbuckridge community (i.e. Ludlaw, Hluvukani and villages around Thulamahashe township) has access to bulk water supply. The remaining 60% are receiving water supply from smaller water treatment works, small dams and/or production boreholes. It should however be noted that during long breakdowns and scheduled maintenance shutdowns on the bulk distribution systems, the community is provided with water supply through water tankers.

Additional Information:

Originally the entire Bushbuckridge Ridge Municipal area (all villages) was provided with bulk and reticulated potable water from small treatment works on small dams and rivers and also certain villages to receive water from production boreholes. Two major regional water treatment plants have been constructed, the Inyaka WTW (100 MI/day) and the Hoxani WTW (45 MI/day) in order to replace the smaller bulk water plants. The Hoxani WTW is supplying 22,5 MI/day bulk to Mbombela LM (Nsikazi North) and also 22,5 MI/day to the South East of the bushbuckridge Ridge LM area (± 175 000 people).

The Inyaka WTW is currently producing 50 MI/day and another 50 MI/day is due for completion by December 2012. From the current 50 MI/day this is distributed to the North with an estimated population as follows.

- the Bushbuckridge Town and Maviljan area with population of 20 000,
- the Dwarsloop, Thulamahashe and Ludlaw area with population of 160 000 and,
- South of the Marite area with population of 90 000.

Currently 50MI/day module under construction at Inyaka WTW is to provide bulk water to the Shatale , Casteel and Acornhoek areas with a projected combined population of 355 000 people. The steel pipe line is currently under construction to these areas and will convey the bulk water from Inyaka WTW.

- (2) During the implementation process of the Acornhoek Bulk Pipeline Project to supply water to the Bushbuckridge community, the Department noted that the quality of the GRP pipes was poor as the pipes failed the required water pressure tests once installed mainly because of manufacturing deficiencies. In an attempt to safeguard the quality of water for human consumption, the Department swiftly resolved to undertake to replace the poor quality pipes with steel pipes and this work is expected to be completed by the end of October 2012. The progress thus far is as follows:
- 1 km of the 22.7km 700mm pipes has been replaced.
 - The entire 2.9km of the 500 mm has been replaced.
 - 0.75km of the 1.5km 400mm pipe has been replaced.
- (3) The employment practices of the project which entail the appointment of a Community Liason Officer through the Implementing Agent's Labour Desk have been agreed upon by all relevant stakeholders (i.e. Ward Councillor, Bushbuckridge Local Municipality, the Department of Water Affairs and the Project Steering Committee). In addition, the system of appointing members of the community (which entails the collection of people's Identity Documents wishing to be part of the project and randomly choosing prospective employees) is also well accepted and considered as fair and transparent by relevant stakeholders.
- (4) Regarding the Acornhoek Bulk Pipeline Project, the Department has already launched an investigation into the faulty pipes and on completion of the investigation, the outcomes could be made available following the proper Government processes. However, I can point out that the construction work to replace the faulty pipes is progressing as planned and it will be completed by December 2012.

Regarding the manner in which the required workforce is recruited within the community, as stated above in response (3), the employment practices are conducted in a transparent manner and monthly project progress and co-ordination meetings with all relevant roleplayers are conducted.

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