



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 161 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above question asked by Mrs A N D Qikani (ANC – EC) is attached for your consideration.

U. Sinyane
DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 08/05/2012

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED
as
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B. E. Molewa
MRS B E E MOLEWA, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DATE: 2012/05/10

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 161

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 30 APRIL 2012
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 09)

161. Mrs A N D Qikani (ANC – EC) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

What is the Government planning to do in order to ensure that the (a) Millennium Development Goals, (b) legislative commitments and (c) basic human rights to water and sanitation of rural communities are met (details furnished)?

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REPLY:

- (a) In 1994, six years prior to the setting of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), the Department established a formal and dedicated programme to eradicate the water and sanitation backlogs. Based on a comprehensive needs assessment, the backlogs in 1994 for Water Services was 41% and for Basic Sanitation 52%. The country has already achieved the MDG goal for water (halving the backlog) in 2005, and the MDG goal for sanitation in 2008. By 2012 we have already eradicated 87% of the basic water supply backlog. At present 94% of the population has been provided with water supply equal or above the basic level of service, and 82% has been provided with a basic sanitation facility.
- (b) There are no formal legislative targets set in the Water Services Act. There is however formal water services delivery targets set out in the Strategic Framework for Water Services (September 2003) which the Department has committed itself to. These targets have subsequently been reviewed (as approved by Cabinet) and the present target is to address the total backlog by 2014. This is reflected in the Outcome 9 agreement which is expected to be implemented by Minister and account to the President
- (c) As stated in (a) above, a formal programme was set up in 1994 to eradicate basic water and sanitation backlogs. The programme was mostly targeted at rural communities to ensure that they receive these services in accordance with their basic human rights. A special fund was established (Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG)) to support this programme. At present the water and sanitation share of the MIG programme is in the order of R7 billion per annum.

The basic water and sanitation programme at present is a complex integrated system consisting of various components and sub programmes, managed by different National Departments, Provinces and Municipalities. These include the MIG programme, managed by the Department of Co-operative Governance, targeting the poor and mostly the rural areas, whilst the urban needs are addressed and managed by the Department of Human Settlements. Over and above the two formal services programmes, the Department is also managing the Regional Bulk Infrastructure Programme which supports relevant bulk infrastructure requirements, as well as providing support in terms of planning and project management. A specific targeted programme by Government has recently been launched to focus on 23 Priority District Municipalities with the biggest needs.

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