



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES: QUESTION 487 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above question asked by Mr D A Worth (DA-FS) is attached for your consideration.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 16/09/2012

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DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

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

DATE: 2012/09/18

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 487

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 07 SEPTEMBER 2012
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 25)

487. Mr D A Worth (DA-FS) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

Whether her Department has been requested to assist the Setsoto Municipality regarding the water crisis in the towns of (a) Marquard, (b) Senekal, (c) Clocolan and (d) Ficksburg in the Free State; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

Yes, the Department has been requested to assist the Setsoto Local Municipality regarding the water crisis in the towns of (a) Marquard, (b) Senekal, (c) Clocolan and (d) Ficksburg in the Free State as follows:

(a) Marquard

The Department ensured that the Marquard raw water balancing dam is repaired to be able to store water as soon as it rains. There is work done towards the development and equipment of five boreholes as an emergency to supply the Marquard town with some water. As a long term solution, we are currently constructing a pipeline between Clocolan and Marquard funded under the Department's Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant Programme, in order to be able to transfer water from the Meulspruit Dam to Marquard.

The Department provides engineering and technical oversight on the implementation of an emergency water supply scheme to supply Clocolan and Marquard with water from the Caledon River. The estimated cost of the emergency scheme is R2, 5 million. The Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs has also approved the funds. The first project meeting to implement this intervention took place on 6 September 2012. The estimated project time is 30 working days.

(b) Senekal

The Department has conducted the implementation readiness study to assist the Setsoto Local Municipality with water supply through the Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant with an allocation of R5,0 million to implement the following activities as phase1:

- Currently, conducting the hydrological study to determine the capacity required for the Sand Spruite and Sand River weirs at Deput and Cyferfontien Dams for sustainable water supply.
- Conducting the Environmental Impact Assessment and feasibility study for the raising of Deput Dam.
- Conducting the Environmental Impact Assessment and feasibility study for abstraction of more water from the Sand River to the Cyfontein Dam.
- construction of the raw water pipeline from the proposed Rosendal raw water storage facility to Senekal.

The Department has also recommended the exploration and development of the borehole at Senekal through the Municipal Infrastructure Grant as an alternative water supply source.

(c) Clocolan

The Department has technically assisted the Setsoto Local Municipality to operationalise the pump station at the Meulspruit Dam to supply Clocolan with water. A groundwater study was completed in Clocolan resulted in the drilling and equipping of boreholes to augment the supply. The emergency scheme as per (a) above will also supply water to Clocolan.

(d) Ficksburg

The Department allocated R7,0 million to the Setsoto Local Municipality for the implementation of a Water Conservation and Water Demand Management project and that has improved the water supply. The Setsoto Local Municipality was technically supported to improve their water supply to all areas by the proper valve management. Water was also released from the Lesotho Highlands Water Project into the Little Caledon to ensure water supply to Ficksburg out of the Caledon River.

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