



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



EdST

Enquiries: A Matukane
Telephone: 015 290 1215
Reference: 6/2/2/6

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES: QUESTION 645 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above question asked by Mr M W Makhubela (COPE-Limpopo) is attached for your consideration.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 30/11/2012


DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

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

DATE:

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 645

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 23 OCTOBER 2012
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 37)

645. Mr M W Makhubela (COPE-Limpopo) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

Whether she has been informed of the plight of the Giyani community which has been without water for the past four months as a result of the drying up of the Nsami Dam; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details? CW856E

---0000---

REPLY:

Yes, The Department of Water Affairs (the Department) is aware of the unavailability of water in the Giyani Local Municipality (LM). The underlying factor to this challenge is the decreasing capacity of the two major dams in the area, which are the Middle Letaba Dam that is at 1.4% and the Nsami Dam that is at 13.5%. Unfortunately if the weather pattern continues the way that it is currently, the two dams will be empty by February 2013.

Water supply problems around the Giyani LM have been exacerbated by the malfunctioning of the rapid gravity sand filters at the Giyani Water Treatment Works. There are sixteen rapid gravity sand filters in the Giyani Water Treatment Works, eight of which are completely out of operation. The remaining eight, which are currently operating require urgent maintenance. The Mopani District Municipality (DM) is aware of this, and they have promised that the contractor that is on-site to do refurbishment of the rapid gravity sand filters, and this will be funded from the Municipal Infrastructure Grant.

A Mopani Disaster Management Centre has been formed, in which the Department is taking a leadership role in the Joint Operation Centre that was established, and through this initiative a contingency action plan has been drafted and adopted to rescue the situation.

The Department is also working closely with the Mopani DM to fast-track the Nandoni to Nsami Bulk Pipeline, which is meant to take raw water from the Nandoni Dam to Nsami Dam. This is a pivotal project that would assist in reducing the water crisis within the Giyani LM.

Meanwhile, the Mopani DM was advised to take some of the funds from the R10 000 000.00 transferred to the Mopani DM in March 2012 for refurbishment of Tours Water Treatment Works and shift that to the Giyani Water Treatment Works in order to refurbish all the sixteen rapid gravity sand filters.

The Department appointed a Professional Service Provider to design and construction of the five boreholes from the Nsami Dam, as well as construct a pipeline and compressed water tanks to Muyexe Village at an estimated cost of R10 000 000.00

The Department is conducting an awareness campaign to the community about water conservation and water demand management for the Middle Letaba Regional Water Supply scheme.

---0000---