



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 657 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

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

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 07/12/2014

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

DATE: 2012/12/13

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 657

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 30 OCTOBER 2012
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 38)

657. Mr R A Lees (DA-KZN) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether she has been informed of the (a) lack of water supply and (b) complete unavailability of water at times in Giyani in Limpopo since the beginning of August 2012; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether there is (a) any working and/or (b) available borehole equipment to augment the water supply; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether her department is providing any assistance to the Mopani District Municipality in order to resolve these problems; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) whether any action is being taken against the said municipality for any transgressions of the (a) National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998, or (b) Water Services Act, Act 108 of 1997, in relation to the water supply problems; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

- (1) Yes, The Department of Water Affairs (The Department) is aware of the lack and unavailability of water supply in the Giyani Local Municipality (LM). The water shortage challenge is as a result of the drying up of the Middle Letaba Dam which is at 1.4% and the Nsami Dam which is at 13.5%. Regarding the two dams, the projection currently is that if we do not receive enough rainfall soon, they will be completely empty by February 2013.

The Giyani Water Treatment Works is operating at 50%. The water supply crisis within this area has been exacerbated by the malfunctioning of the rapid gravity sand filters of the water treatment works. The Mopani District Municipality (DM) is aware of this problem, and a contractor has been appointed to repair the sixteen rapid gravity sand filters.

- (2) Yes, the Giyani Town has forty two (42) boreholes that augment bulk water supply, seventeen (17) of which are presently operational. The other twenty five (25) boreholes are non-operational due to maintenance and rehabilitation oversight, vandalism and theft of borehole equipments. Both the Mopani DM and the Department are paying special attention to bring these boreholes back to operation.
- (3) Yes, the Department has compiled an emergency contingency plan that requires R138 million in order to address the water shortages, and drought in the Middle Letaba Regional Water Scheme. The Department will assist in sourcing the required amount.

The Department is also currently busy with the designs for rehabilitation of five boreholes, and the erection of pipeline to the Giyani North East at a cost of R10 million. An amount of R44 million has also been allocated to the Mopani DM through the DoRA for the Operation and Maintenance and Refurbishment of the Water Scheme during the current 2012/13 financial year.

The Department is taking a leadership role in the establishment of a Joint Operation Room that was established, and that is done through the Mopani Disaster Management Centre, which is dealing with the water supply challenges. An awareness campaign to the community about water conservation and water demand management for the Middle Letaba Regional Water Scheme is being implemented.

- (4) No, the low capacity of water in the Middle Letaba and Nsami Dams is a natural environmental phenomenon and has not been linked to any contravention of any legislation. The water restriction for bulk water supply stipulates that the Giyani Water Treatment Works must operate at 50% of its capacity. The malfunction of the rapid gravity sand filters was identified at the beginning of 2012, and it resulted in the compilation of an action plan and Refurbishment Project Plan (RPP), which was approved by the Mopani DM and the Department for the refurbishment of the Giyani Water Treatment Works. The amount of R10 million has been allocated and a contractor has been appointed to refurbish the Giyani Water Treatment Works.

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