



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES: QUESTION 15 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

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

DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE:

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED ✓


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

DATE: 2013/03/10

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 15

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 22 FEBRUARY 2013
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 02)

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

- (1) What strategies are in place to address the deteriorating water supply infrastructure which results in severe (a) water and (b) revenue losses? CW78E

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REPLY:

- (1)(a) The Department of Water Affairs (DWA) has developed a Water Services Infrastructure Asset Management Strategy to address the problem of deteriorating infrastructure which in turn can result in severe water losses. The strategy is part of the Department's initiative to support, guide and train municipalities in the proper management of their infrastructure which includes planning for refurbishment, upgrading as well as improved maintenance.

The Department is also running a Councillor Development Programme focussing on training councillors across the country to assist and guide municipalities with the identification and the development of action plans to address issues of water supply and to reduce their water losses.

As large regional infrastructure that supply water to municipalities are often not funded by the MIG (Municipal Infrastructure Grant), a special grant to fund Regional Bulk Infrastructure was introduced and is being administered by DWA. This fund is called the Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant (RBIG) and has been allocated R 2 589 million for the 2012/13 financial year.

- (b) The function of municipalities is to collect revenue for potable water they treat and distribute. The Department provides consistent guidance to municipalities in the implementation and management of metering and billing systems in order to become financially sustainable. The Department has a strategy on Water Conservation and Demand Management (WCWDM) which include amongst others measures which guide Metro's, Districts and Local municipalities to implement appropriate measures to reduce water losses.

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