



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



WA 2008

EdCM

Enquiries: M Keet
Telephone: 012 392 1306
Reference: 6/2/2/6

MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 2008 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above mentioned question asked by Mr L J Basson (DA) is attached for your consideration.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE:

5/11/14

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/~~AMENDED~~

MRS NP MOKONYANE
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

DATE:

09.11.14

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 2008

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 17 OCTOBER 2014
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 19)

2008. Adv A Alberts (FF Plus) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:†

- (1) Whether the recent water shortages in Gauteng only came about because of electricity problems, or whether there were other factors which also contributed to the shortages;
- (2) what measures has her department introduced to address any future electricity problems that may lead to water supply problems;
- (3) whether a study has been undertaken to ensure that all of the country's water infrastructure and systems are being optimally maintained and replaced or extended where necessary; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) whether water consumer associations have been established by her and her predecessors since 1 May 2014 in order to achieve community involvement in water affairs; if not, why not; if so, (a) how many associations have been established, (b) when was each association established and (c) what are the (i) aims and (ii) powers of each association?

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REPLY:

- (1) The recent water shortages in Gauteng came as a result of major electricity failures at Eikenhof, Vereeniging and Palmiet pumping stations from the 15 to 22 September 2014. The situation was made worse because Rand Water was experiencing unprecedented water supply demand beyond what the municipalities in Gauteng had projected which also made the recovery slower.
- (2) It is the Departments view that the mandate to supply electricity remains with the electricity suppliers, in this case, Eskom and City Power. The Department together with Rand Water are in consultation with the electricity suppliers and are looking at other options to augment power supply such as hydropower projects that will enhance the electricity networks.
- (3) Continuous monitoring of the condition of Department of Water and Sanitation pipelines takes place as well as maintenance. In cases where pipelines need to be refurbished that is put on the budget/planning and done.
- (4) The Department is mandated by the National Water Act to establish Water Users Associations and not water consumer associations; however since 1 May 2014 no Water Users Associations have been established.

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