



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

EdTM

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Reference: 21/15/P5

MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION ★285 FOR ORAL REPLY

A draft reply to the above mentioned question asked by Mr H P Chauke (ANC) is attached for your consideration.


ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 24/11/2016

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED



MRS NP MOKONYANE
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

DATE: 29.11.2016

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR ORAL REPLY

QUESTION NO ★285

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 22 NOVEMBER 2016
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 39)

★285. Mr H P Chauke (ANC) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:

What are the relevant details of the shortage of water in Swartruggens?

NO3054E

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REPLY:

Swartruggens and Borolelo are supplied with potable water from the Swartruggens Water Treatment Plant (WTP). Raw water to this plant is supplied from the Swartruggens Dam and augmented from a spring source in the Polkadraai Spruit. This source is unreliable. It runs dry in periods of extreme draught and farmers are contesting the water use.

The Swartruggens Dam is silted up and constructed in an area where slate or mudstone dominates the geology of the basin. The dam regularly runs dry, normally towards the end of the dry season, just before the rainy season. The safe yield of the dam is smaller than the demand on the dam. This is attributed to the reduced volume through siltation and leaks due to the geology. It is of paramount importance that the yield of the dam has to be increased.

The following alternative water sources have been identified to augment the supply into the greater Swartruggens. These are:

1. Importing raw water from the Lindleyspoort Dam;
2. Increasing of a Swartruggens Dam Wall and overflow to increase the basin capacity
3. Importing water from the dolomite areas some 40 km to the south of town;
4. Re-using treated sewage effluent;
5. There are other dams around Rustenburg area which might provide relief to supply both Koster and Swartruggens. These are the Bospoort, Vaalkop and Olifantsnek dams;
6. Increasing the storage of the Swartruggens Dam by desilting.

To date, the solution numbered 3 above has been taken forward. The dolomitic area has been tested and results are positive in terms of both quantity and quality. The design of the pipeline has been completed and cost estimates finalised. Once funds are confirmed the pipeline will be constructed with extreme urgency and can be completed within four (4) months of commencement.

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