



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



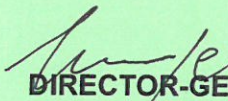
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Enquiries: Dr T Ntuli/ Mr Abrahams
Telephone: 051 405 9000/053 830 8804
Reference: 6/2/2/6

MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

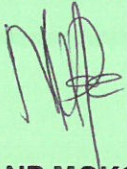
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 42 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above mentioned question asked by Mr M L Shelembe (NFP) is attached for your consideration.


DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 22/02/2016

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED



MRS NP MOKONYANE
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

DATE: 04.03.16

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 42

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 11 FEBRUARY 2016
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 1)

42. Mr M L Shelembe (NFP) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:

What does her department intend to do to alleviate the water crisis which has reached alarming proportions in (a) Komaggas in the Northern Cape, (b) Qwaqwa in the Free State and (c) other areas that are severely affected?

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REPLY:

- (a) In the Northern Cape, the Nama Khoi Municipality implemented a borehole rehabilitation project in Komaggas during 2015/16 under the accelerated community infrastructure program. The borehole rehabilitation project involved the drilling of four (4) boreholes next to the existing boreholes since the steel casings of those existing boreholes, which have been in operation for more than twenty years (20), have deteriorated over time.

A total of eight (8) boreholes are currently linked to the water supply network of Komaggas with a further three that can potentially be equipped and linked into the water supply network as the need arises, for example, during periods of drought.

Water supply interruptions are experienced from time to time, mainly in the high lying areas of Komaggas as a result of pump failures. In some instances, repairs to pumping equipment are delayed due to a shortage of technical staff at local level. The Nama Khoi Municipality is currently busy with an analysis of the entire water supply network in order to minimise water outages (including implementation of an operation and maintenance programme and rehabilitation of existing reservoirs), to reduce water losses and to ensure the efficient and effective management of the available water resources.

With the refurbishment of the Namakwa Bulk Water Supply Scheme (NBWSS), there has been increasing pressure from the local community to move away from groundwater supply to surface water by linking Komaggas to the NBWSS. The option for water supply to Komaggas from the NBWSS has been investigated and will form part of subsequent phases of the refurbishment program.

- (b) In the Free State, my Department is currently providing six (6) water tankers of 18 000 L capacities to the Maluti-A-Phofung Local Municipality (LM) from 5 January 2016 to date. The water trucks operate between 05h00 to 19h00 every day of the week in Qwaqwa and Kestell areas. My Department is delivering water to particular areas as determined by Joint Operation Committee (JOC) and the schedule is mostly fixed. Maluti-A-Phofung LM is also supplying water with sixty (60) trucks in the Qwaqwa area. Maluti-A-Phofung LM has also drilled and equipped three (3) boreholes to augment water supply.

In the **medium term**, my Department intends to undertake the following interventions:

- Reduction of identified major water leakages, these include bulk distribution between reservoirs.
- Replacing ten (10) manual pumps with mechanical pumps for existing boreholes.
- Refurbishing (electrical/mechanical items & pipe connection to either network or nearby reservoirs) of ten (10) existing boreholes.

- Exploration drilling of twenty (20) new additional boreholes.

In the **long term**, the following projects will be implemented:

- A new bulk water connection from Sterkfontein Scheme to Qwaqwa CBD through Sedibeng Water during 2016/17 Financial Year (FY).
- Raw water bulk pipeline to Makgolokweng and Diyatalawa will be constructed in the 2016/17 FY.
- Clear water bulk supply to Kestell during 2017/18 FY.
- Upgrade of the Sterkfontein Water Treatment Plant (WTP) from 10 to 20 MI/day as part of Phase 4 planning in 2017/18 FY. It will be connected to the northern bulk water supply. The municipality has informally requested that the project be fast-tracked and an increase of scope be considered to 30 MI/day. The DWS still awaits such request in a formal way and will assess its viability.

Furthermore, my Department is currently providing four (4) water tankers of 18 000 L capacities to the Setsoto LM in the Free State as from 12 January 2016 to date. The water trucks operate between 05h00 to 19h00 every day of the week in **Senekal** (3 tankers) and **Clocolan** (1 tanker). Setsoto LM is also providing water with seven (7) water tankers from Paul Roux (previously bought from local farmers at R0.15/litre)

In the **medium term**, the DWS intends to undertake the following interventions:

- Refurbishing six (6) boreholes in Senekal.

In the **long term**, the following projects will be implemented:

- In **Senekal**, through Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant (RBIG) DWS is constructing a new 6 MI/day central water treatment plant and will be upgrading the bulk raw water pipeline.

My Department facilitated the release of water from Katse Dam in Lesotho to benefit one of the most affected towns (**Smithfield**) in Mohokare Local Municipality. Other areas that also benefitted are as follows:

- Mangaung Metro (Bloemfontein, Thaba Nchu, Botshabelo)
- Setsoto LM (Ficksburg, Marquard and Clocolan)
- Naledi LM (Wepener)
- Mantsopa LM (Ladybrand)
- Dihlabeng LM (Fouriesburg)

The off storage dam level in Smithfield is currently at approximately 70% and the water treatment plant is now operational and supplying water to the communities. Through Municipal Water Infrastructure Grant (MWIG), the DWS has also equipped and connected eight (8) boreholes in Smithfield.

In the **long term**, my Department intends to undertake the following interventions:

- In **Smithfield**, the municipality is planning to replace and upgrade the dilapidated asbestos bulk raw water pipeline from the Caledon River to the water treatment plant.

My Department has further embarked on the comprehensive infrastructure development that deals with new construction projects, upgrading and rehabilitation of existing infrastructure. The emphasis is about increasing water supply to meet the current and future water demands in line with population growth and economic development. My Department has extensive funding programmes that span the whole spectrum of the total water value chain. These funding streams include the following programmes:

- Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant (RBIG)
- Accelerated Community Infrastructure Programme (ACIP)
- Municipal Water Infrastructure Grant (MWIG)
- National Transfer (NT)

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