



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

EdCM

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MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES: QUESTION ★66 FOR ORAL REPLY

A draft reply to the above mentioned question asked by Mr J M Mthethwa (KwaZulu-Natal: ANC) is attached for your consideration.


ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 22/08/2016

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED



MRS NP MOKONYANE
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

DATE: 25.08.16

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR ORAL REPLY

QUESTION NO ★66

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 16 AUGUST 2016
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 16)

★ 66. Mr J M Mthethwa (KwaZulu-Natal: ANC) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:

Whether there is a policy in place to address water provision to communities that fall under economically depressed municipalities; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

Yes, the National Government has a number of policies to enable water provision to all communities in South Africa. The policies and strategies are drafted in such a way that it targets and focuses on economically depressed municipalities, notably the 27 prioritised District Municipalities that were announced by the President. Provision is made for the development of new infrastructure where needed, as well as for the operation and maintenance of existing infrastructure.

My Department's policies are all aimed at addressing Equity in the water sector and has several critical elements: The provision of an adequate supply of safe water to all households to meet their domestic and productive requirements, with a minimum of 25 litres per person per day provided free of charge to all indigent households. The implementation of the indigent policy rests with the municipalities, whereby the Municipalities are expected to develop their own indigent register to ensure the provision of free basic water to indigents households.

The following Department's policies support equity in the water sector and specifically address water provision to communities that fall under economically depressed municipalities:

- i) Water Supply and Sanitation Policy, 1994
- ii) Strategic Framework for Water Services, 2003
- iii) National Water Policy Review 2013

The National Treasury annually publishes the Division of Revenue Act, through which the allocation of various grants to Municipalities are indicated. The main support grants for new and refurbishment of infrastructure includes the Municipal Infrastructure Grant and the Bulk Regional Infrastructure Grant.

Furthermore, the National Treasury Equitable share policy makes provision for the management of water services to communities. The grant intends to make provision for service delivery to indigent households and allocations are determined according to the number of poor households per municipality.

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