



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Enquiries: Dr T Ntuli
Telephone: 051 405 9000
Reference: 6/2/2/6

MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES: QUESTION 364 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above mentioned question asked by Mr M M Chabangu (Free State: EFF) is attached for your consideration.

ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 7/09/2018

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/ AMENDED

NKWINTI GE (MP)
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

DATE: 17/09/2018

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 364

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 31 AUGUST 2018
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO.33)

364. Mr M M Chabangu (Free State: EFF) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:

(a) When will the water crisis in Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipality be resolved, (b) what is his department's plan in this regard and (c) what is the timeline for such plan?

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THE MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

(a) The water crises for Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipality (LM) range from operation and maintenance issues to bulk related issues including reticulation for areas that are not reticulated due to the topography of the area. The Department through Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant (RBIG) and Water Service Infrastructure Grant (WSIG) is supporting the municipality to alleviate water shortage problems. This sustainable water supply solution is planned to be completed in the year 2024, but due to the magnitude of funds required to complete the planned projects the expected completion year may change.

However, the continuous change in the management of the municipality delays decision making which has a direct impact on the implementation timeframe of the planned activities. The municipality is currently under administration as a result of the instability in the area. The total scheme cost is estimated at R654 000 000.00 (Six hundred and fifty four million rand). The RBIG allocation for the current financial year is approximately R40 000 000.00 (Forty million rand). This is limiting the implementation of planned projects. Councillors and Mayor were removed, which might further delay our interventions in the municipality. Some of the Grants are direct transfer which makes it a risk for funds to be utilised for the right purpose.

(b)(c) Through the Department's Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant (RBIG), a feasibility study was conducted for sustainable bulk water supply for Maluti-a-Phofung LM. The Maluti-a-Phofung Bulk Water Supply Scheme was implemented to ensure a sustainable and long-term solution for the water supply problems that had been experienced in the QwaQwa region.

The Maluti-a-Phofung Bulk Water Supply Scheme is one of the RBIG projects currently being implemented by Sedibeng Water Board on behalf of the Maluti-a-Phofung LM in the Free State Province, with the Department as the funder. The primary focus of this scheme is the sustainable supply and augmentation of potable water to the greater Harrismith (Tshiamo-Makgolokweng) and QwaQwa (including Kestell/Tlholong) areas, including the rural communities of Diyatalawa and Makgolokweng.

The Department is implementing projects in Maluti-A-Phofung which aims to resolve the water crisis. A number of projects have been completed already. The following projects in **Table 1** below have been completed:

TABLE 1: Water projects completed in Maluti-A-Phofung LM by the Department of Water and Sanitation

No	Projects:	Description of the projects:	Year Completed:
1	Sterkfontein WTW (Phase 1)	The construction of Phase 1 of the Sterkfontein WTW with a capacity of 10Mℓ/day.	2013
2	Escol reservoir	Construction of a 3,0Mℓ concrete reservoir at Escol to provide a balancing storage facility for the gravity supply to the northern areas of QwaQwa and Kestell/Tlholong.	2012
3	Escol pipeline	Installation of a rising main from Sterkfontein Dam to Escol reservoir.	2012
4	Rising main to Escol reservoir	The installation of a gravity main from Escol reservoir to storage facilities in the northern water supply region of QwaQwa and the provision of additional storage capacity within the northern water supply regions.	2013
5	Construction of a new raw water abstraction facility at Sterkfontein Dam	The completion of Sterkfontein WTW, the upgrading and provision of the QwaQwa Rural Bulk Water Supply, installation of a new rising main from Sterkfontein WTW to Tshiame (IDZ - Industrial Development Zone), the Internal QwaQwa Distribution Connections and the construction of a new reservoir at Qholaqhwe.	2015
6	Makwane Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New gravity main from Metsi Matsho Dam to Makwane WTW • Upgrading of Makwane WTW to 10 Mℓ/day • Bulk distribution pipelines (Matshekgeng and Phahameng East). 	2017

Further to the projects already completed, the Department is also currently implementing projects in Maluti-A-Phofung. The projects currently under implementation are shown in **Table 2** below:

TABLE 2: Water projects currently being implemented in Maluti-A-Phofung LM by the Department of Water and Sanitation

No	Projects:	Description of the projects:	Funding Program	Planned completion Year:
1	Northern Bulk Storage Reservoirs	Provision of bulk storage capacity in the northern supply area of QwaQwa by constructing three 3Mℓ concrete reservoirs.	RBIG	2018
2	Bulk interconnection pipeline: Uniqwa – Central Qwaqwa connection	Uniqwa – Central QwaQwa connection: Installation of 500Ø uPVC pipe, Construction of the connection chambers, refurbishment of the existing chambers and connection to existing services.	RBIG	2018
3	Sterkfontein Water Treatment Works (Phase 2)	Phase 4 of the Sterkfontein WTW, upgrading of the WTW to a capacity of 20 Mℓ/day.	RBIG	2020
4	QwaQwa borehole project	Drilling and equipping of Operational Boreholes in Phuthaditjhaba and Kestell.	RBIG	2021
5	Refurbishment of Fika Patso Water Treatment Works	The project entails the Refurbishment and upgrading of Fika Patso water purification plant (Mechanical and Electrical work).	WSIG	2020
6	Bulk Water Supply to Kestell/Tiholong	Bulk water supply from Uniqwa to Kestell and Tiholong, which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of new 315mm dia. uPVC pipeline from Uniqwa to Kestell reservoir • Refurbishment and upgrading of the bulk water system in Kestell • Related appurtenant work in the Kestell system 	WSIG	2020

The projects already completed and the projects currently under implementation will not resolve the water crisis of Maluti-A-Phofung. There are also a number of projects which are planned to be implemented as part of my department's plan to resolve the water crisis of Maluti-A-Phofung. Future projects which form part of the Department's plan are shown in **Table 3** below.

TABLE 3: Future water projects forming part of the Department of Water and Sanitation's plan to solve the water crisis in Maluti-A-Phofung LM

No	Projects:	Description of the projects:	Planned completion Year:
1	QwaQwa rural bulk water supply	The installation of a new rising and gravity mains to supply raw water to the agricultural villages of Diyatalawa / Makgolokweng.	2022
2	QwaQwa internal distribution and connections	The upgrading and installation of bulk internal and distribution pipelines in the Fika Patso, Makwane and newly established Sterkfontein systems is crucial to ensure diversity and augmentation of the different bulk water supply systems.	2023
3	New Tshiame rising main	The installation of a new rising main from Sterkfontein WTW to Tshiame (IDZ - Industrial Development Zone).	2024
4	New reservoir at Qholaqhwe	Construction of a new 2,0Mℓ concrete reservoir at Qholaqhwe.	2024

The continuous change in the management of the municipality delays decision making to proceed with planned activities. The municipality is under administration, but there is still a problem with stability. The total cost to alleviate the water crisis in Maluti-A-Phofung is estimated at R654 000 000.00 (Six hundred and fifty four million rand). The RBIG allocation for the current financial year is approximately R40 000 000.00 (Forty million rand). The limited funding available is restricting the implementation of the planned projects.

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