



**MINISTRY:
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, WATER AND SANITATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR ORAL REPLY

QUESTION NO ★244.

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(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 26)

★244. Mr L J Basson (DA) to ask the Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation:

What (a) measures has her department put in place to mitigate the deteriorating condition of the Vaal River, which her department acknowledged poses a serious social and economic challenge for the Republic and (b) is the cost and associated timeline of the mitigating measures?

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MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, WATER AND SANITATION

- (a) The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), together with the intervention team that includes, Emfuleni Local Municipality (LM), the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), the Municipal Infrastructure Support Agency (MISA), Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA), Rand Water and Ekurhuleni Water Care Company (ERWAT) has developed the implementation plan for the intervention and mitigating the deteriorating condition of the Vaal River. The implementation plan includes the refurbishing of 44 pump stations and 3 waste water treatment plants (Sebokeng, Leeuwkuil and Rietspruit) as well as replacing or repairing gravity and raising mains. In addition, leak detection and deficiencies in the network system need to be replaced and or repaired. It should be noted that the intervention is aligned with the development of the ongoing Sedibeng Regional Sanitation Scheme.
- (b) The cost of the intervention work is estimated to be R1.1 billion and the DWS has requested the National Treasury to fund the shortfall of R750 million towards efforts to mitigate the pollution of the Vaal River. To this end, the DWS reprioritised R241, 9 million at the beginning of the financial year. The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) has been paid R80 million from this budget.

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