



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

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR ORAL REPLY

QUESTION NO ★262

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(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 26)

★262. Mrs S M Mokgotho (EFF) to ask the Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation:

Is she going to intervene to ensure that the community of Tseki in Maluti-A-Phofung Local Municipality in the Thabo Mofutsanyane District of the Free State get reliable water supply on a daily basis?

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MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, WATER AND SANITATION

Honourable Member I am particularly concerned that many of our communities are living without access to water as municipalities have not been able to provide the necessary infrastructure. The focus of government must be on reviving the aging infrastructure with the aim to eradicate the consequences of the past through viable delivery models and this is a priority.

The legislative mandate of my Department as set out in the National Water Act of 1998 is to ensure that the country's water resources are protected, managed, used, developed, conserved and controlled in a sustainable manner for the benefit of all people and the environment. The Water Services Act of 1997 prescribes the legislative duty of municipalities as water-service authorities to provide water supply and sanitation according to national standards and norms. It also regulates water boards as important water service providers and gives the executive authority and responsibility to the Minister of Water and Sanitation to support and strengthen the capacity of municipalities to manage their own affairs, exercise their powers and perform their functions.

According to our current water and sanitation resources and services delivery model, bulk infrastructure delivery is the responsibility of national government. The Department of Water and Sanitation together with the water boards are responsible for the planning and delivery of bulk water services to municipalities and the nine (9) Water Boards provide bulk potable

water services to the municipalities in which they operate. Reticulation and distribution of water from this bulk infrastructure to households and other end-users is the responsibility of municipalities.

While this model continues to experience challenges, the Department has proposed collaborative and structured interventions in support of municipalities who are Water Services Authorities. To this extent the Department is establishing an inter-governmental rapid response technical team, reinforced by specialist professionals, to intervene in areas which are experiencing severe water problems.

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) allocated a total of R50 832 232.00 through the Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant to implement the bulk water supply scheme within the QwaQwa area which includes the borehole project which consists of the drilling, testing and equipping (a process which involves testing the yield of the boreholes, determining the type of pumps as well as the type of pump head required in terms of the distances and height for each borehole). The details of the project are as follows:

- a) Sixty (60) boreholes were drilled and tested for yielding during the 2015-2016 Financial Year in QwaQwa.
- b) Currently, ten (10) out of the sixty (60) boreholes in other areas within QwaQwa are under implementation which involves equipping and connecting.
- c) To date six (6) boreholes have been drilled and tested in Tseki village yielding a total volume of 0, 7 Mega litres per day. However, Tseki village is not part of this initial priority. The project is part of the Maluti-a-Phofung Bulk Water Supply Scheme which was implemented to ensure a sustainable and long-term solution for the water supply problems that had been experienced in the QwaQwa region. The primary focus of this scheme is the sustainable supply and augmentation of potable water to the greater Harrismith (Tshiame-Makgolokweng) and QwaQwa (including Kestell/Tlholong) areas, including the rural communities of Diatalawa and Makgolokweng. The plans for the six boreholes already drilled for Tseki village are to commence with equipping and connection in February 2020. The duration of the project will be seven (7) months. The project is estimated to be completed by September 2020. These boreholes will serve as medium to long term solution. The boreholes will be augmented by surface water supply.

It should be noted that a long-term solution for water supply is the upgrading of the Sterkfontein Water Treatment Works from ten (10) Mega litres per day to twenty (20) Mega litres per day to ensure sufficient supply to the QwaQwa area. This component is currently in the tender stage and planned for completion in January 2021. This water supply from Sterkfontein Water treatment works supply will augment water supply from boreholes, the Fika-Patso water treatment works, and the Makwane water treatment works.

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