



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION


NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES: QUESTION 389 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above mentioned question asked by Mr S Zandamela (Mpumalanga: EFF) is attached for your consideration.

DRAFT REPLY: RECOMMENDED/ NOT RECOMMENDED/ AMENDED


MS DEBORAH MOCHOTLHI
ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL
DATE: 23-08-2021

DRAFT REPLY: APPROVED/ NOT APPROVED/ AMENDED


MR SENZO MCHUNU, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION
DATE: 06/08/2021

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 389

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 25 JUNE 2021

(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 21)

389. Mr S Zandamela (Mpumalanga: EFF) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:

Whether, considering the water shortage in the eMalahleni Local Municipality in Mpumalanga and at Ezinambeni in particular where there was no water for more than seven days, any plans are in place to supply water to that section of the municipality and the entire municipality; if not, why not; if so, (a) what plans and (b) what are the further relevant details?

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MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

The Emalahleni Local Municipality (ELM) is a Water Services Authority that has an obligation to supply water to all consumers or potential consumers in its area of jurisdiction. In terms of Section 11 of the Water Services Act 108 of 1998; the municipality should also progressively ensure efficient, affordable, economical and sustainable access to water services within its area of jurisdiction.

The municipality has reported that there were no reports of prolonged water outages in the area of Ezinambeni recently. If there had been outages, the municipality would have utilised water tankers as an alternative means of water provision to affected communities.

Provision of bulk water services at ELM is facilitated through internal and external schemes. The municipality has three municipal schemes (Witbank, Ga-Nala and Rietspruit water purification plants) and four external bulk water providers (Anglo, Glencore, Nuwater and Eskom).

The Olifants River is the main source of water from which water is abstracted by the municipality. This is a significant risk as there is deficit in demand for water due to fast paced growth in the number of settlements within the municipality. The current municipal water demand is estimated at 172Ml/d whereas the supply is at 136.7Ml/d.

In addition to the deficit of approximately 35Ml/d of available supply, the municipality has physical water distribution losses of approximately 35%; due to:

- Aged infrastructure (pipe bursts and pipe leakages),
- Long turnaround time of addressing losses due to lack infrastructure maintenance resources,
- Theft and vandalism

Additional challenges as indicated by the ELM include the following:

- High water interruption resulting to water losses
 - Intermittent water supply due to shortage of water supply
 - Deteriorating raw water quality
 - Aged infrastructure
 - Poor customer satisfaction leading to low revenue collection
- b) The municipality has conducted the following studies to diagnose to extent of the challenges and determine critical interventions required to overcome challenges:
- Water and Sanitation Master Plan
 - Water Conservation and Water Demand Management strategy
 - Water Safety Plan
 - Water Services Development Plan (95% complete)

The proposed Turnaround Strategy of the ELM seeks to address strategic and operational interventions that can assist the municipality improve water services. The objectives of the strategy are to:

- Improve water security to meet current and future demand
- Reduce water losses
- Improve level of service
- Unlock economic activities and sustainable development

In line with the Turnaround Strategy, the municipality has prioritised following strategic projects:

- Upgrading of Witbank water treatment plant by additional 30MI/d
- Reuse of treated effluent for industrial supply
- Replacement of aged infrastructure
- Implementation of WCWDM strategy
- Upgrading of waste-water treatment plants
- Improve operational efficiency
- The use of modular package plants by optimizing the available surface water supply for water augmentation

The DWS has recommended the refurbishment of a pipeline and pump station taking water from the Doornpoort Dam which will be funded through the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) and provide additional 5,4MI/d to the water supply system.

The DWS is finalising internal supply chain processes to undertake a bulk water supply feasibility investigation for ELM to upgrade the Witbank Water Treatment Works from 75MI/d to 100MI/d and ancillary bulk pipelines and reservoirs. It is envisaged that the upgraded infrastructure will serve a population of 288 741 and benefit communities in KwaGuqa, Clewer, Pine Ridge, Klarinet, Jakaroo Park, Del Judo and Lynville.

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