



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 618

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 26 NOVEMBER 2021
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 39)

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

Whether any plans are in place to supply water to the Emalahleni community in Ezinambeni, where there are water shortages of up to seven days in a week; 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) has indicated that there were no reports of prolonged water outages in the area of Ezinambeni recently. Where there were outages, the municipality utilised water tankers as an alternative means of water provision to affected communities.

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 172MI/d whereas the supply is at 136.7MI/d.

In addition to the deficit of approximately 35MI/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. In line with the Turnaround Strategy, the municipality has prioritised following strategic projects:

- Upgrading of Witbank water treatment plant by additional 30Ml/d
- Reuse of treated effluent for industrial supply
- Replacement of aged infrastructure
- Implementation of WCWDM strategy
- 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 5,4Ml/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 75Ml/d to 100Ml/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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DRAFT REPLY: RECOMMENDED/ NOT RECOMMENDED/ AMENDED


MS DEBORAH MOCHOTLHI
ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL
DATE: 15-12-2021

DRAFT REPLY: APPROVED/ NOT APPROVED/ AMENDED


MR SENZO MCHUNU, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION
DATE: 18/01/2022
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

QUESTION 618

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