



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Enquiries: Dr T Ntili
Telephone: 015 405 9000
Reference: 6/2/2/6

MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION


NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES: QUESTION 16 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mr M A P De Bruyn (Free State: FF Plus) is attached for your consideration.

DRAFT REPLY: RECOMMENDED/ NOT RECOMMENDED/ AMENDED


MS DEBORAH MOCHOTLHI
ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL
DATE: 20/08/2021

DRAFT REPLY: APPROVED/ NOT APPROVED/ AMENDED


MR SENZO MCHUNU, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION
DATE: 06/09/2021

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR ORAL REPLY

QUESTION NO ★16

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 26

★16. Mr M A P De Bruyn (Free State: FF Plus) to ask the Deputy President:

Rectifying water crisis in Free State municipalities

As part of his responsibilities to assist with troubleshooting in service delivery hotspots, (a) what actions will he take to assist in rectifying the situation in the Free State, especially in the (i) Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipality, (ii) Masilonyana Local Municipality and (iii) Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality which have been battling with a water crisis for more than four years, (b) how will he ensure that the Government meets its mandate to provide adequate access to clean water in such areas as it is a basic human right and (c) what action has he taken in the past 12 months to assist in rectifying the said situation?

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

- ~~a) There are various short to long term interventions that have been implemented by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in collaboration with the municipalities of Maluti-A-Phofung, Mangaung and Masilonyana in the Free State.~~
- i. The Maluti-A-Phofung Local Municipality (LM) has four (4) water supply systems including:
- Wilge River (9,6 MI/day abstraction),
 - Sterkfontein Dam (2 600 000 MI),
 - Fika Patso Dam (28 000 MI and Metsi Matsho Dam (4 500 MI).

The Municipality does not have water source challenges. However, though there is enough water available, it does not reach all users because of infrastructure constraints. The four water supply systems of Maluti-a-Phofung LM were not interlinked and therefore, if one system fails, the other systems cannot augment water supply to the area of the failing system.

Through the Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant (RBIG) and the Water Services Infrastructure Grant (WSIG), the Department of Water and Sanitation has identified short, medium, and long-term interventions to interlink the four water supply systems, as well as to address the water crisis in Maluti-A-Phofung LM.

The short-term interventions are listed in **Table 1.1** and gives the project name, description, and cost estimates.

Table 1.1: Short-term interventions

No	Project	Description	Estimated Project value (R)	Status (%)
1	QwaQwa Borehole Project	Stage 1: Drilling & testing of 60 borehole sites to be suitable to yield two thousand litres per hour (2000 l/hr) for long term production.	15,526,800.00	Completed
2	QwaQwa Borehole Project	Stage 2: Equipping of the five (5) priority boreholes in; Chris Hani Park (1), Kestell (2), Monontsha (1) and Tebang (1).	17,745,765.94	Completed
3	Equipping of Boreholes in Qwaqwa	Phase 2: Development of Groundwater in QwaQwa: Stage 2A Stage 1: Equipping of five (5) boreholes with electrical pumps, pump-house structures and package plants Stage 2A Stage 2: Equipping of eight (8) emergency interim boreholes with hand-pumps or electrical pumps Stage 2B Stage 1: Equipping of five (5) boreholes with electrical pumps, pump-house structures and package plants Stage 2B Stage 2: Equipping of eight (8) emergency interim boreholes with hand-pumps or electrical pumps	51,700,000.00	Completed
4	Uniqwa reversal pipeline project	Construction of 3km long 450mm diameter GRP pipeline from Uniqwa Reservoir to Phuthaditjhaba.	51,700,000.00	42%
5	Comet to Ha-Rankopane pipeline project	Installation of 4km pipeline to transfer water from Makwane system to Ha-Rankopane Reservoir to augment Fika Patso system	26,795,766.00	90%
6	Bulk Interconnecting Pipework: Qholahwe Mphatlalatsane Pipeline	Installation of a new 250mm diameter uPVC pipeline, augmentation of the bulk internal networks from Qholahwe to Mphatlalatsane Reservoir.	9,189,638.45	Completed
7	Water Conservation and Demand Management (WCDM)	The conservation of raw and potable water through Replacement and/or repairing of defunct water supply and secondary distribution infrastructure.	44,000,000.00	32%
8	Installation JoJo tanks and supply of water tankers	Immediate Water Supply in Qwaqwa: Procurement and leasing of Water Tankers and 2000 JoJo tanks	91,587,805.00	65%
Total			308,245,775.39	

The DWS has also allocated funding for medium term interventions through the Water Services Infrastructure Grant (WSIG) as well as the Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant (RBIG). The medium-term interventions to resolve the water supply challenges in Maluti-a-Phofung LM is summarised in Table 1.2. The table shows the project name, description, and cost estimates for the medium-term interventions.

Table 1.2: Medium-term interventions

No	Project	Description	Estimated Project value (R)	Status (%)
1	Makwane Scheme	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)	81,000,000.00	Completed
2	Sterkfontein Water Treatment Works (WTW) Phase 2	Upgrading of the Sterkfontein WTW (Phase 2) from 10 to 20Ml/day.	130,000,000.00	42%
3	Refurbishment & Upgrading of the Fika Patso WPP	Refurbishment and Upgrading of the Fika Patso Water Purification Plant.	38,397,922.56	0%
4	Improving Water Revenue and Reducing Non-Water Revenue	Installation of telemetry systems and installation of smart pre-paid water meters.	33,286,200.00	0%
5	Bulk Water supply to Tshiame & Makgolokweng	Construction of a new 400m diameter PVC pipeline from Sterkfontein Water treatment Works to the Tshiame reservoir with associated pipeline structures ie. Valve chambers	58,000,000.00	0%
6	Upgrading of the Intabazwe Rising Main	Upgrading of Intabazwe rising main to a 450mm PVC pipeline for the current and future demands.	82,000,000.00	0%
7	Upgrading of the supply to Phuthaditjhaba and CBD area	Upgrading of existing infrastructure to effectively distribute the additional 6ML/day to QwaQwa.	85,900,000.00	0%
8	Kestell/Tlholong bulk water line	Installation of a new 315mm diameter uPVC pipeline, augmentation of the bulk internal networks in Kestell and Tlholong including the upgrading of the booster pump station.	73,825,595.98	94%
9	Bulk Interconnecting Pipework: Nuwejaarspruit - Wilge Pipeline	Installation of a new 400mm diameter uPVC pipeline, augmentation of the bulk internal networks from Nuwejaarspruit to Wilge including the upgrading mechanical electrical work of the booster pump station.	22,806,201.41	90%
Total			605,215,919.95	

The DWS has also identified long term interventions required to ensure sufficient good quality water to reach all the people in Maluti-a-Phofung LM. The long-term interventions

identified to resolve the water challenges are listed in **Table 1.3** which shows the project name, description, and cost estimates for the long-term interventions.

Table 1.3: Long-term interventions

Project	Description	Estimated project value (R)
Upgrading of Sterkfontein Water Treatment Works	Upgrading of Sterkfontein Water treatment works from 20MI/day to 40MI/day.	573,000,000.00
Upgrading of Wilge Water Treatment Works	Upgrading of Wilge Water Treatment works from 9MI/day to 12MI/day.	45,000,000.00
Refurbishment of water reticulation system	Refurbishment of water reticulation system and installation of water meters in Maluti-A-Phofung LM.	385,700,000.00
Water supply to Makgolokweng and Diyatalawa.	The installation of new rising and gravity mains to supply raw water to the agricultural villages of Diyatalawa / Makgolokweng.	60,000,000.00
Total		1,063,700,000.00

- i. The Masilonyana Local Municipality is one of the Municipalities within Lejweleputswa District Municipality (DM) comprising of four towns namely, Brandfort, Verkeerdevlei, Winburg and Theunissen, which serves as the main town of the municipality. To assist to rectify the water challenges in the Municipality the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has made funds available under the Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant (RBIG) and Water Services Infrastructure Grant (WSIG), for interventions aimed at addressing water challenges in the Municipality. The DWS has also evaluated and recommended projects through the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) funds.

Brandfort: To address the shortage of raw water provided to the Brandfort Water Treatment Works, a project was implemented under RBIG to upgrade a 33km pipeline and 3 water pump stations from the Sand-Vet pipeline to the water treatment works to ensure uninterrupted water supply to the plant. Due to the poor maintenance, the water pump stations deteriorated rapidly. To prevent the situation from worsening, the DWS has evaluated and recommended an MIG technical report for the refurbishment of Brandfort/Majwemaswea Water Treatment Works and raw water pump stations. The project is currently under implementation.

Furthermore, the DWS is currently implementing the Brandfort WC/WDM under WSIG Schedule 5B valued at R12,056,040, which is meant to address all the issues related to the leakages and pressure balance in the Brandfort/Majwemaswea area. The second phase of this project will be implemented in the current financial year for the refurbishment of the raw water pipeline to Brandfort WTW with value of R15,825,860

To increase water security in Brandfort, R10 million has been made available through drought funds (WSIG Schedule 6B) to refurbish existing boreholes and for the development of additional boreholes to augment water supply in the area and supplement potable water from the WTW. The project is being implemented by the Sedibeng Water Board and is at

32% progress based on 100% geohydrological studies completed, preliminary designs completed and the borehole equipping 20% completed.

Theunissen: The Theunissen WC/WDM is currently being implemented under WSIG Schedule 5B as per value of R22,300,000.00 which is also intended to reduce losses in the system and to address issues related with the leakages and pressure balance. DWS has also assessed the proposal for MIG for the refurbishment of the raw water pipeline from Sand-Vet canal to the Theunissen WTW.

Winburg: The Department allocated R30 million under RBIG Schedule 6B in the current financial year for the Refurbishment /Upgrading of Winburg WTW. This project is under implementation and was expected to be complete in March 2022. The Municipality is putting measures in place to accelerate the progress in the project including the Mechanical and electrical components. The second portion of this project will address the construction of 48.6km pipeline from Sedibeng Reservoir to Winburg Reservoir. The Professional Service Provider has been appointed for this phase and is currently busy with Preliminary Designs. Construction is expected to commence in February 2022.

DWS has also allocated funds under WSIG 5B in this financial year for the implementation of the Refurbishment of Sewer Pump Stations and WTW in Winburg. This project is close to completion and is considered a priority by the Municipality to tackle serious spillages threatening the environment in the township and polluting a stream which flows to the main water resource from where the Winburg WTW is abstracting raw water. The DWS also intends to implement phase 2 on this project where an upgrade of the system would be done to cover the future sewer demand until 2045.

ii. Mangaung

To also assist in rectifying the water situation in the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality, the DWS is constructing the Welbedacht Bulk Water Supply Scheme, which is one of the RBIG projects, currently being implemented by the Bloem Water Board. The project consists of a 33.8km pipeline of 1000mm diameter from the Lieuwkop chamber to the Brandkop reservoir which will be able to augment / replace the existing pipelines. The current budget allocation under RBIG Schedule 6B is R60 million and actual expenditure on the project thus far is R23,065,585. The current physical progress is 84% and completion is expected by October 2021. Upon completion, the pipeline will provide water to 46 384 households in the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality.

In addition to the construction of Welbedacht Bulk Water Supply in Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality, the DWS has embarked on the implementation of the COVID-19 Sustainability Water Supply program which consist of the connection of water tanks where no potable water can be constantly provided in township areas of Bloemfontein, Southpan, Botshabelo and Thaba Nchu. The allocated budget under RBIG Schedule 6B is R5,406,000; the Implementing Agent for this project is the Bloem Water Board. The contractor has already been appointed and will establish site by end of August 2021 as per Municipality consideration to connect the tanks in 20 sites. The expected completion date of the project is 15 October 2021.

- b) A Bulk Water Feasibility study was conducted to determine the most feasible and sustainable way to address the bulk water requirements of Maluti-a-Phofung. The All-Towns Reconciliation Study was conducted by the Department to assess the water situation of most towns in the Free State as well as South Africa as a whole. The DWS, together with the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) are implementing projects in line with these studies and once all the phases are fully implemented all the water

challenges in Maluti-a-Phofung, Masilonyana LM and Mangaung Metro will be addressed. The interventions identified in the Feasibility Studies and the All-Towns Reconciliation Study are implemented through a multi-year approach due to the extent of the development required. Therefore, all the challenges will not be mitigated in one year.

The Department of Water and Sanitation is implementing interventions through the Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant (RBIG) and the Water Services Infrastructure Grant (WSIG) while the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs is implementing interventions through the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG).

- c) The Deputy President visited the Free State province on 30 March 2021 and again on 21 May 2021 to address the water and electricity challenges in Maluti-a-Phofung LM. A follow up visit in Maluti-a-Phofung LM was conducted by the Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation on 19 June 2021. Following the visit to the province, an Action Plan was drafted to ensure that the actions determined during the visits are implemented. Progress on the Action Plan is being monitored by the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA).

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