



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

### FOR ORAL REPLY

### QUESTION NO ★134

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 1 MARCH 2022  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 2)

**★134. Mr M R Mashego (ANC) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:**

In light of the challenges in different water authorities in relation to technical capacity for water infrastructure development project management and maintenance, what measures has his department put in place to support water authorities to ensure that they have the necessary capability to ensure access to water for social and economic usage?

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### MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has developed a new model to strengthen its role in supporting and intervening in municipalities where water and sanitation services and infrastructure are failing. Working together with the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), National Treasury (NT) and Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA).

The DWS will lead the development and implementation of a range of inter-related and coordinated support measures and interventions which will include doing the following differently:

- Strengthen and extend the roles, responsibilities, and capacity of water boards so that they can provide water and sanitation services in instances where municipalities are failing to provide the services
- Review the geographical boundaries of the water boards to make them more sustainable, this already started with the disestablishment of Sedibeng Water


- Increase involvement of private sector financing and management in municipal water and sanitation services
- Strengthen regulatory interventions based upon the results of monitoring mechanisms such as Blue Drop, Green Drop and No Drop Programmes
- Strengthen the National Norms and Standards in line with the Water Services Act and put in place a framework to guide the provision of sanitation services
- Introduce longer term interventions such as, for example, taking over the management of wastewater treatment works from municipalities for a longer prescribed period where there is continued non-compliance with norms and standards
- More effectively link the allocation of municipal water and sanitation grants to enable support and interventions
- Use the department's internal construction capacity for rapid deployment to address urgent intervention needs
- Put in place appropriate financing frameworks and mechanisms for support and interventions

A portion of the Water Services Infrastructure Grant (WSIG) is available and can be used by municipalities for technical support such as compiling technical reports and business plans, to assist in improved planning for Water and Sanitation services


The type of projects funded through WSIG, such as Water Conservation Demand Management (WCDM) allows for technologically advanced type of projects, such as the Harry Gwala District Wide WCDM automated telemetry system which will improve technical capacity for the District Municipality to easily carry out operation and maintenance on all their water and sanitation projects linked to the system.

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DRAFT REPLY: RECOMMENDED/ ~~NOT RECOMMENDED~~/ AMENDED

  
**DR SEAN PHILLIPS**  
**DIRECTOR-GENERAL**  
 DATE: 04/03/22 ✓

DRAFT REPLY: APPROVED/ ~~NOT APPROVED~~/ AMENDED

  
**MR SENZO MCHUNU, MP**  
**MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION**  
 DATE: 17/03/2022