



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Reference: 6/2/2/6

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO 167**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 18 MARCH 2022**  
**(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 7)**

**167. Ms S A Luthuli (KwaZulu-Natal: EFF) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:**

What immediate steps have been taken to provide water to the community of Gamalakhe in the Ray Nkonyeni Local Municipality which have been without water for a month?

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**MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION**

Ugu District Municipality (DM) is the Water Services Authority responsible for providing water services in its area of jurisdiction including in the Ray Nkonyeni Local Municipality.

During early March the silt-load in the Umzimkhulu River affected abstraction due to storm water runoff. This resulted in shortages of raw water for purification for areas supplied by the Mzimkulu Water Supply System, including Port Shepstone, Margate, Ramsgate and Gamalakhe.

These shortages were then exacerbated by the level 4 loadshedding by Eskom which reduced the production and distribution of water in several systems by 25% (6 hours a day).

Over a three-week period, some systems were completely emptied and took time to stabilise and restore water supply to all areas. While the system is being replenished, water is supplied on a rotational basis. The level of the Gamalakhe reservoir is presently above 90% and water

has therefore been restored. The reservoir is also being tested for airlocks and other localised issues that may cause interruptions.

Ugu DM has been working closely with the local councillors to ensure water relief is supplied to the affected communities, however, the turnaround time to deliver water relief is slow as resources are limited. There are 57 static water tanks installed in strategic areas which are filled every second day by the water tankers.

The DWS is currently providing funding to Ugu DM through the Water Services Infrastructure Grant (WSIG). The allocations from the 2021/22 to 2022/23 financial years are as follows:

Financial Year	Amount
2021/22	R72 350 000
2022/23	R60 000 000
2023/24	R70 000 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>R202 350 000</b>

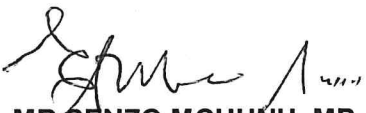
The Provincial Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs has also recently allocated R19.3 million for the refurbishment and repairs of the St Helens Rock pumping system which will increase the available water supply in this system.

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

  
**DR SEAN PHILLIPS**  
**DIRECTOR-GENERAL**  
DATE: 05/04/22

DRAFT REPLY: APPROVED/ NOT APPROVED/ AMENDED ✓

  
**MR SENZO MCHUNU, MP**  
**MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION**  
DATE: 14/04/2022