



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 473

(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 29)

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

What action is he taking to intervene considering that eMbalenhle Township in the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality, Mpumalanga has been without water for the past two weeks?

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MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

The Govan Mbeki Local Municipality is a Water Services Authority (WSA) responsible for the provision of water to areas under its jurisdiction. In accordance with the Water Services Act 108 of 1998 Section 11, the municipality has a duty to all consumers in its area of jurisdiction to progressively ensure efficient, affordable, economical and sustainable access to water services.

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) engaged with Govan Mbeki Local Municipality on 08 September 2021 and the following was reported by the Municipality:

- The municipality is experiencing frequent power outages that affect water distribution and filling up of water reservoirs in the area.
- In the aftermath of electricity outages, raising the levels in the reservoirs in order to stabilise the water supply takes time, thus resulting in water supply challenges
- The municipality also had financial challenges which impacted on the ability to pay creditors such as Rand Water and Eskom. However, the municipality has indicated that the Eskom and Rand Water accounts are being serviced and up to date.
- The municipality also reported that ageing electricity infrastructure contributes to the frequency of outages in the area. These challenges are being attended to by Eskom and the municipality.


- The municipality is supplying water through water tankers where there are challenges of water supply.

The Govan Mbeki Municipality is currently implementing projects to upgrade its water infrastructure. The projects are intended to improve water supply and are funded through the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG).


The DWS continues to monitor the situation and identify ways to reduce the water crisis in the area.

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


DR SEAN PHILLIPS
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
DATE: 18/04/22

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


MR SENZO MCHUNU, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION
DATE: 01/03/22