



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 320

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(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 13)

320. Mr M Billy (KwaZulu-Natal: DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:

What specific steps is she taking to hold municipalities, such as the eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality accountable for years of neglecting and failing to maintain water infrastructure (details furnished)?

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MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

The Department convened a National Water and Sanitation Summit on 17 and 18 January 2024 wherein senior officials (Municipal Managers, Technical Directors), and Mayors of all the Water Services Authorities (WSAs) in South Africa were in attendance. The Summit was also attended by other water sector stakeholders including the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Municipal Infrastructure Support Agency, Water Boards, and the South African Local Government Association.

The purpose of the Summit was to discuss the performance of the WSAs, and based on their performance rating in the regulatory Drop reports they were required to develop corrective action plans (CAPs). The CAPs must indicate measures to be put in place to ensure improvement of the water and wastewater management in their area of responsibility. Green Drop (GD) and No Drop (ND) CAPs were required from all WSAs with systems rated to be in a poor or critical state by no later than the 29 February 2024.

Of the 14 WSAs in KZN, 5 failed to submit the CAPs to the DWS. The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) is in a process of issuing the non-compliance letters to relevant Municipal Managers directing them to provide approved CAPs, failing which, further regulatory action may be instituted.

In addition, in the eThekweni Municipality, the Director-General of the DWS serves as the co-chairperson of the water and sanitation workstream under the Presidential Workgroup, established in February 2024 to tackle service delivery challenges in the City. A shared

understanding has been reached between government and business regarding the root causes of these challenges and the necessary steps to address them.

The City has adopted a turnaround strategy which has been developed with the support of National Treasury, focusing on infrastructure rehabilitation, improved maintenance, enhanced revenue collection, and institutional capacity building and reform. Detailed action plans outlining short-, medium-, and long-term solutions have been developed and are being implemented. The workstream convenes bi-weekly to track progress on the execution of these plans, ensuring accountability and effective coordination among stakeholders.

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