



the dtic

Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 1300

Mr S M Gana (Rise Mzansi) to ask the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition::

- (1) Whether his department has forecast what the economic cost would be for every day that Gauteng is without water in respect of a Day Zero scenario, where the water supply in Gauteng is interrupted and/or demand outstrips supply; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what is the total figure;
 - (2) what top five industries will be the most affected by water interruptions in Gauteng?
- NW1550E

REPLY

- (1) As you would appreciate, **the dtic** does not have an official forecast on the Day Zero scenario for the economy in the Gauteng province. However, the department is aware that South Africa is a water-scarce country as a result of inconsistent and insufficient rainfall. Therefore, the looming water crisis is a serious concern. The water which the Gauteng province receives is from the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP), which supplies 780 million m³ (cubic meters) to the Integrated Vaal River System (IVRS), from which Rand Water supplies bulk water to municipalities in Gauteng.

The planned maintenance of the LHWP from 1 October 2024 to 31 March 2025, will reasonably be disruptive to the South African economy, especially in Gauteng but the LHWP is necessary to ensure its long-term sustainability and integrity. Relying on the official updates from the Rand Water, the planned maintenance will

result in 700 million m³ of water per annum being transferred in 2024, resulting in a shortfall of 80 million m³ from the normal annual transfer volume. The shortfall will be recovered after the maintenance period. The Department of Water and Sanitation, has assured Rand Water that the impact of the maintenance on the overall IVRS will be minimal considering that dams in the IVRS such as the Sterkfontein Dam and others are currently full. Rand Water projects that in the unlikelyhood that the Vaal Dam drops to the minimum levels, there will be enough water to release from Sterkfontein Dam.

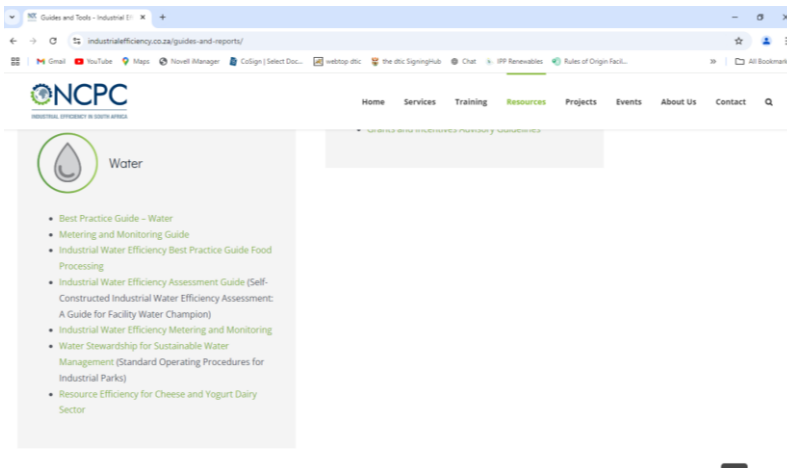
Rand Water has communicated to municipalities and other customers not to panic but to intensify their water conservation mechanisms and campaigns to curb the ongoing high consumption. **the dtic** also supports the National Cleaner Production Centre (NCPC) through the national support programme that drives the transition of South African industry towards a green economy through appropriate resource efficient and cleaner production interventions. This includes improving water efficiency through wastewater management (e.g. treating, recycling and purifying wastewater), rainwater harvesting, boreholes, transforming industrial water use practices in order to reduce water consumption and improving industrial water quality.

- (2) In case the LHWP maintenance programme does not go according to the planned schedule, water intensive industrial sectors such as agro-processing, beverage, chemical, metal, meat production, textiles and clothing, automotive manufacturing as well as agriculture and mining, will be negatively affected. Water is used in these industries to process, cool, and clean products.
- (3) The National Cleaner Production Centre (NCPC) Programme of **the dtic** has developed special tools to assist industry wishing to improve their resource and water efficiency. These tools are freely available to share and make use of them as a resource.

Specific to water use and consumption, the NCPC Industrial Water Efficiency (IWE) Project promotes the transformation of industrial water use practices, to reduce water consumption and improve industrial water effluent quality. Through

the development of tools, guides and training courses, the NCPC-SA has built capacity in industry to improve its water efficiency, whilst water assessments and implementation support are available to companies at a plant level.

<https://www.industrialefficiency.co.za/guides-and-reports/>



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