

PRIVATE NOTICE QUESTION

SITTING OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF TUESDAY 26 MARCH 2019

To ask the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities -

Whether, in relation to the ongoing water crisis in Curepipe and Forest Side, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Central Water Authority, information as to if complaints were received in relation to water supply in the said regions since December 2018 and, if so, indicate the actions taken as a result thereof, if any, indicating the –

- (a) **reasons for the deterioration of water supply thereat; and**
- (b) **urgent remedial measures being envisaged, if any, to address same?**

Madam Speaker,

The water supply network in the region of Curepipe and Forest Side is one of the oldest in Mauritius. The areas of Curepipe and Forest Side, including Attlee, Bonnefin, Joachim, Commerson, La Croix and other areas are served by a reservoir at La Brasserie. Water to La Brasserie reservoir is pumped from La Marie Treatment Plant through two steel pipes of diameter 450mm. each. These pipes are very old. They date back to more than 100 years. One of these pipes is in a derelict condition with heavy leakages. This has resulted in a significant deficiency in

terms of volume of water pumped into La Brasserie Reservoir and this has severely impacted on the water distribution in these areas.

In July 2018, the Central Water Authority started all procedures for the replacement of these steel pipes. Preparatory works started at that time for such replacement.

On 25 January 2019, an open advertised bidding exercise was initiated

This exercise was for the replacement of the two old pipes by a 600 mm diameter ductile iron pipe. The new pipeline will have a maximum carrying capacity of 30,000 m³ to cater for existing and future demand in the concerned regions. Bids were closed on 27 February 2019 and are now being evaluated at Central Procurement Board. Works are expected to start by May 2019 for a duration of about 12 months.

In the meantime, the situation was worsening and hours of supply were being gradually reduced. This was around December 2018 when the Central Water Authority did note a significant increase in the number of complaints relating to water supply in that area. On 4 February 2019, a meeting was held in the offices

of the Central Water Authority between officials of the CWA and representatives of the inhabitants. The CWA informed these representatives that CWA was to install a temporary pipe, pending the replacement of the old existing pipes.

As from 31 January 2019, the CWA resorted to valve operations such that between 5.00 a.m. to 8.a.m, water was supplied to the regions of La Croix, Curepipe Town Centre, Commerson, Rochecouste, Celicout Antelme and Maurice Martin.

And from 16.00 hours to to 20.00 hours, was was supplied to the remaining areas.

In addition, regular water distribution was ensured by means of water tankers.

Madam Speaker,

The CWA has now laid a temporary pipeline of about 2.3 km of 250mm HDPE pipe from La Marie to La Brasserie. This is expected to eliminate the water leakages and improve the supply to the above regions.

On Friday 22 March 2019, the Central Water Authority proceeded with the connection works at La Marie. During the works, the CWA had to switch off the pumps feeding the La

Brasserie reservoir. This resulted in interruption of water supply as from Friday afternoon.

On Saturday 23 March, the works were completed and the pumps were re-started. However, it was noted that there were still certain losses in the newly laid pipes. The pumps had to be switched off again to allow the CWA to undertake repairs.

Communiqués were issued to the public and 11 water tankers were deployed in the region. The works were completed in the evening of Sunday 24 March 2019.

It is therefore not correct to say that there is an ongoing water crisis in that area. As at this morning, only two complaints were registered and these were from non domestic consumers.