



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1026

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 24 MARCH 2023
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 11)

1026. Ms S A Buthelezi (IFP) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:

With reference to the Republic's unsatisfactory results in both the Green and Blue Drop reports, what steps has his department taken to ensure that the sanitation woes in the Republic cease to persist, considering that his department failed to reach the majority of its targets for the previous year when it comes to this specific section?

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MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

The Green Drop and Blue Drop Progress Report released in April 2022 contains audit results of performance of Water Services Authorities. The actions emanating from the audit outcomes of the Green Drop report included Water Service Authorities responsible for wastewater collection and treatment systems that achieved less than 30% during Green Drop Assessment receiving non-compliance letters with instructions to prepare and submit corrective action plans.

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) is working together with the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) and the Municipal Infrastructure Support Agent (MISA) to assist municipalities on the development of action plans to improve management of the wastewater treatment plants.

The DWS is assisting municipalities with systems found to be at a critical/poor state to develop corrective action plans and is providing advice on best practices for for

wastewater management to improve performance. To further assist municipalities, the Department is prioritising its Water Services Infrastructure Grant and Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant allocations towards addressing Blue and Green Drop issues.

The DWS ensures the protection of water resources by serving suspected transgressors including municipalities with Notices and Directives in accordance with the provisions of the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998) (NWA). This is to compel responsible municipalities to take rectification measures on non-compliance cases identified. These Notices and Directives instruct the identified transgressors to make representations and submit action plans to the Department. Subsequently, the DWS monitors implementation of the action plans and ensures adherence to the timeframes in order to control the causes of pollution and remedy the effects thereof.

Where municipalities are not responsive to the Directives issued, the DWS can:

- institute criminal charges aimed at holding a municipality liable for offenses stipulated under Section 151 of the NWA, whereby fines or imprisonment may be imposed against an offender
- institute civil action by applying for a court interdict against a municipality. The court may then order the municipality to take remedial action through a Court Order

The table below provides a summary of the number of administrative, criminal and civil actions taken to protect water resources against municipalities found to have contravened the provisions of the National Water Act.

Enforcement Actions taken against non-compliant Municipalities *from January 2020 to date						
Responsible Provincial Office	Non-Compliance Letters Issued	NWA Notices Issued	NWA Directives Issued	Criminal Cases Opened	Cases Handed Over to NPA	Court Interdicts Granted
Eastern Cape	9+10GD*+10 BD**	15	14	0	1	0
Free State	5 +17 GD	12	11	1	0	0
Gauteng	4GD +1 BD	28	19	0	1	0
KwaZulu Natal	3 +4 GD	21	0	0	0	0
Limpopo	10GD +9BD	16	17	1	1	0
Mpumalanga	2+9GD	42	27	5	1	0
North-West	1+7GD	5	6	0	1	1
Northern Cape	23 GD + 15 BD	32	10	0	0	0
Western Cape	1 +7 GD	8	0	0	0	0
Total	147	179	104	7	5	1


Non-compliance letters issued for critical systems identified by *Green Drop Assessments and **Blue Drop Assessments in 2022

The Department of Water and Sanitation is collaborating with SALGA to improve skills and capacity of Water Services Authorities through:


- Capacitating the Water and Sanitation Portfolio based Councillors throughout their term.
- Ensuring adequate wastewater operations and maintenance capacity through the training of Process Controllers. The department will, in collaboration with the Energy and Water Sector Training Authority (EWSETA) facilitate training of Process Controllers in order to comply with the required Wastewater Quality Management regulations.
- Ensuring that all wastewater management environmental hazards are mapped and mitigated.
- Councillor Induction across the country. Wastewater Quality Management and Drinking Water Management themes were part of the inductions.

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


DR SEAN PHILLIPS
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
DATE: 25/04/20

DRAFT REPLY: APPROVED/ NOT APPROVED/ AMENDED


MR SENZO MCHUNU, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION
DATE: 14/4/20