



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Reference: 6/2/2/6

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1975

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 26 MAY 2023
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 19)

1975. Mrs T P Msane (EFF) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:

What long-term measures have been put in place by his department to deal with the sewerage spillage in Ward 6 in Bloemfontein in the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality, where residents continue to live amongst sewerage?

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MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

The Department of Water and Sanitation office regularly conducts inspections and audits on the operation and maintenance of the Wastewater Collector Systems (WWCS) including wastewater treatment plants, pump stations, and sewer networks in all Water Services Institutions (WSIs) in the Free State Province including the Mangaung Metro Municipality. The inspections are intended to assess if WWCS are operated and maintained in a manner that does not pose risks contamination of water resources thus increasing risks to human health and the environment.

The final effluent released back to the water resource is also monitored to ensure compliance with water use authorization conditions or general authorization limits where water use authorization is not available. Administrative Enforcement by issuing of non-compliance notices or directives is done to the WSIs. This is to ensure that there is improvement on the status of sanitation infrastructure operation and maintenance and the quality final effluent released back to the water resources. In areas where there are material breaches, DWS can follow civil or criminal measures.

Ward 6 in Mangaung is served by the Sterkwater WWTW and Bloemspruit WWTW. The Sterkwater WWTW is non-operational while the Bloemspruit WWTW is partially operational. The non-functionality of the wastewater systems affects the sewer network and causes sewer spillages. DWS issued the Municipality with a directive in 2021 for poor operation and maintenance which causes sewer spillages with respect to the Bloemspruit WWTW.

The DWS is in the process of issuing the Municipality with a notice for intention to issue a directive with respect to the Sterkwater wastewater plant. During routine inspections, Sterkwater WWTW was found to be operational albeit with some operational and maintenance problems. Upon follow up in July 2022, the plant was found to be non-functional.

The Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality (MMM) was funded with R100 million through the Urban Settlements Development Grant (USDG) in February 2023 to address the refurbishment of WWTWs and pump stations and eradicate sewer spillages amongst other municipal challenges. The scope of work for the water and sanitation projects included the following:

- Condition assessment and refurbishment of sewer pumpstations, WWTW as well as bulk and reticulation sewer networks.
- Preventative maintenance on the sewer network components
- Emergency attendance to sewer infrastructure blockages and failures

Based on the report submitted by MMM to DWS in June 2023, the status of the project to refurbish the Bloemspruit WWTW was at 50% while the status for the project Sterkwater WWTW project was at 35%.

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

Phillips

**DR SEAN PHILLIPS
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
DATE: 11 July 2023**

DRAFT REPLY: APPROVED/ NOT APPROVED/ AMENDED

Senzo Mchunu
**MR SENZO MCHUNU, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION
DATE: 24/7/23**