



## **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 554**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 3 MARCH 2023**  
**(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 6)**

**554. Mr N G Myburgh (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:**

What (a) was the total cost of the interventions of his department to mitigate the disastrous consequences of the delivery of water and sanitation by poorly run municipalities since 1 January 2020 and (b) steps has his department taken to hold any persons accountable who have been found responsible for the conditions which prompted the intervention?

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## MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

- a) The total cost of intervention projects is R4.5 billion to date. The cost for the intervention in the Mkhanyakude District Municipality is yet to be confirmed once all the planning has been finalised. The details for other interventions implemented since 2020/21 by the department is indicated below:

Number	Region	Municipality	Source of funding	Project Name	Cost R'000
1	Limpopo	Giyani Local Municipality	WSIG	Reticulation of 24 villages	400,000
2	KwaZulu Natal	Zululand District Municipality	RBIG	Mandlakazi Bulk Scheme phase 5 (Esiphambanweni phase 5 & 6)	400,000
3	KwaZulu Natal	Ugu District Municipality	WSIG	Water Demand & Water Conservation Management	150,000
4	KwaZulu Natal	uMkhanyakude District Municipality	WSIG	Water Service Projects	TBC
5	Gauteng	Mogale City	WSIG	Emergency WSIG Projects	180,000
6	Northwest	Ramotshere Moiloa (Dinokana)	WSIG	Dinokana	30,000
7	Free State	Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipality	RBIG	Maluti-a-Phofung LM Intervention	1,837,000
8	Mpumalanga	Lekwa Local Municipality	RBIG	Lekwa Waster Services (Re-purposing/Operations)	1,016,315
9	Free State	Matjhabeng Local Municipality	RBIG	Matjhabeng bulk sewer (Welkom)	522,500
<b>Total</b>					<b>4,535,815</b>

- b) Municipalities are responsible for acting against their personnel. DWS does not have legal authority to take disciplinary action against municipal officials. The department has put measures in place to ensure that interventions are implemented effectively and efficiently. Some of the Water Boards such as Umgeni water and Lepelle Northern Water have been appointed to ensure that interventions are implemented in accordance with intended outcomes. The department is continuously monitoring the progress of the implementation and the impact thereof.


Furthermore, the Department ensures the protection of water resources by serving suspected transgressors or 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, which may take the form of action plans in other instances. Subsequently, the Department assess the representations submitted and advise on the implementation thereof. The Department then monitors implementation of the action plans and ensure adherence to the timeframes committed in order to control the causes of pollution and remedy effects thereof.

Lastly, the Department may 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. The Department may also 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 depicts administrative, criminal and civil actions taken to protect water resources against municipalities found to have contravened the provisions of the National Water Act.

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

  
**DR SEAN PHILLIPS**  
**DIRECTOR-GENERAL**  
**DATE: 17/05/23**

DRAFT REPLY: APPROVED/ ~~NOT APPROVED/ AMENDED~~

  
**MR SENZO MCHUNU, MP**  
**MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION**  
**DATE: 28/3/23**