



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Reference: 6/2/2/6

### NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

#### FOR WRITTEN REPLY

#### QUESTION NO 1

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 10 FEBRUARY 2023  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 1)

**1. Mr M A P De Bruyn (Free State: FF Plus) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:**

- (1) Whether, with reference to his department's statement on 4 November 2022 regarding challenges at the Matjhabeng Local Municipality, he deems such sanitation challenges as health and environmental risk to residents of such a municipality; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether any progress has been made regarding sanitation services he referred to at the said municipality; if not, why not; if so, (a) what progress and (b) what are the further relevant details;
- (3) whether any action plans have been developed to attend to such sanitation challenges; if not, why not; if so, what are the (a) timelines and (b) further relevant details.
- (4) whether his department will monitor the spending of the R425 million that was allocated to the municipality in order to resolve water and sanitation challenges; if not, why not; if so, (a) what measures will be implemented to ensure that any expenditure will add value for money to the residents of Matjhabeng and (b) what are the further relevant details?

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## MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

1. The ongoing sanitation challenges in the Matjhabeng Local Municipality infringe on the Constitutional Right of the residents to live in a clean, healthy environment. The health risk of exposure to untreated raw sewerage is the proliferation of harmful water borne diseases like cholera and gastrointestinal infection.

Furthermore, the environmental pollution of the rivers, streams and ultimately the dams which causes challenges of deterioration of water quality, aesthetic and physical degradation of the environment.

2. (a) The department's progress with its intervention for the sanitation challenges in the municipality is as follows:
  - Bloem Water was appointed as the Implementing Agent for the project in June 2022.
  - Since the inception of the intervention, work has commenced with the refurbishment of the 6 sewer pump stations, unblocking of manholes, repairs to 27 collapsed sewer pipelines, and replacement of 343 meters of sewer pipelines from the 137km pipe network affected.

(b) To accelerate implementation, 12 Professional Service Providers have been appointed for planning, condition assessment, Scoping Report, Feasibility Reports, and specifications. A panel of contractors has also been appointed to assist with the implementation of the bulk sanitation projects. Consultants are preparing condition assessments and tender documentation for the refurbishment of wastewater treatment works, pump stations and the sewer network.
3. (a) Yes, there is an action plan. Project completion is planned for March 2026.


(b) The action plan comprises the following:

  - Refurbishment of 9 Wastewater Treatment Works 52 Pumpstations and 1543km of blocked, dilapidated and collapsed sewer networks.
  - A panel of contractors has been appointed with effect from 20 January 2023 which will assist with the implementation of the identified components.
  - Request for quotations (RFQs) will be issued immediately once the DWS has approved the planning stage documents, Inception Reports, Condition Assessments to appoint the contractors within a short procurement process of 14 days to commence with work.
  - Bloem Water will further issue RFQs for the appointment of additional contractors as planned commencing from 28 February 2023.
4. (a) The Department has put in place measures to monitor expenditure as the claims are submitted based on the progress on site by the contractors or service providers. The funds have been transferred to Bloem Water as per the Division of Revenue Act and the Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant Scheduled 6B conditions.

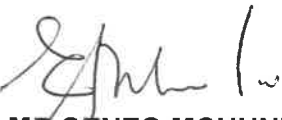
- (b) A project manager has been allocated to monitor and verify the work done on site. Furthermore, a consultant on site certifies the completed deliverables. Claims are verified by the Consultant, Bloem Water and finally DWS for work done before any invoices are processed for payment.

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DRAFT REPLY: RECOMMENDED/ NOT RECOMMENDED/ AMENDED

  
**DR SEAN PHILLIPS**  
**DIRECTOR-GENERAL**  
DATE: 21/02/23

✓  
DRAFT REPLY: APPROVED/ NOT APPROVED/ AMENDED

  
**MR SENZO MCHUNU, MP**  
**MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION**  
DATE: 08/03/23