



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 146

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 10 MARCH 2023
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 5)

146. Mr C F B Smit (Limpopo: DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:

(a) Why is there a vacuum between his department and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment in combating, prevention and policing of sewer pollution of our scarce water systems and environment by municipalities and (b) when will such crime against humanity be stopped?

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MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

- (a) The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) and Department of Environment Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) are part of the Environmental Management Inspectorate as it relates to compliance and enforcement of the environmental legislative framework. The DWS and DEFF take enforcement action against municipality separately and, whenever necessary, jointly. The DWS works with local government to ensure that reported cases of pollution emanating from sewer pollution are addressed. In relation to water services, DWS has a core mandate to support local government in the provision of services to ensure safe collection and treatment of waste water. Addressing pollution from failing pumpstations or works is a priority and is allocated resources by the DWS.

(b) The DWS is, through the Water Service Improvement Programme (WSIP), committed to taking consistent and consequent actions against municipalities specifically where there is poor governance and mismanagement. The DWS also continues to strengthen controls so that grants to municipalities for water and sanitation infrastructure are used to address non-compliance with norms and standards and to provide incentives for addressing problems such as:

- non-revenue water
- inadequate budgeting for operations and maintenance
- Water Conservation and Demand Management (WCDM)
- institutional weaknesses

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DRAFT REPLY: RECOMMENDED/ NOT RECOMMENDED/ AMENDED



MR XOLANI ZWANE
DIRECTOR-GENERAL (ACTING)
DATE: 2023/03/24

DRAFT REPLY: APPROVED/ NOT APPROVED/ AMENDED



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