



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Enquiries: I Lekalake  
Telephone: 082 875 9029  
Reference: 6/2/2/6

### NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

#### FOR WRITTEN REPLY

#### QUESTION NO 390

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 19 MAY 2023  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 7)

**390. Ms D C Christians (Northern Cape: DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:**

- (1) What (a) initiatives and/or (b) programmes his department has to address water infrastructure challenges in municipalities that are unable to manage and/or maintain their systems effectively such as the Sol Plaatje Local Municipality in Kimberley (details furnished);
- (2) whether his department has conducted any water infrastructure assessments in Kimberley; if not, why not; if so, what were the (a) findings and (b) recommendations of such assessments;
- (3) what (a) financial support and/or (b) resources will his department provide to assist in the repairs and maintenance of water infrastructure in Kimberley, considering the apparent financial constraints that are faced by the said municipality;
- (4) whether there are any plans to collaborate with other relevant stakeholders such as the national or provincial government bodies in order to ensure a comprehensive and sustainable solution to water crisis in Kimberley; if not, why not; if so, what plans;
- (5) what measures his department has in place to ensure transparency, accountability and effective governance of water infrastructure projects in municipalities that are struggling to address the issue independently?

CW481E

---0000---

## MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

- (1) In 2013, the DWS supported the Sol Plaatjie Local Municipality (SPLM) by providing R300 million of Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant (RBIG) funding for upgrade of the Homevale WWTW which was over-capacitated and could not treat effluent to the required standards. The project was completed in 2017. Thereafter, the municipality failed to secure the plant properly and it was vandalised, and the WWTW has been discharging untreated effluent into the pan. The DWS also provided funding in the 2019/20 financial year through the Water Services Infrastructure Grant for the projects below:
- Replacement of Sewer Outfall Pipeline (between Gogga Sewer Pumpstation and Homevale WWTW) at a cost of R 25 000 000
  - Repairs of leaks at Gogga pumpstation at a cost of R315 000
  - New Sewer Pump Station for Carters Ridge at a cost of R 31 000 000. The Carters Ridge project comprises of two phases. Phase 1 has been completed and phase 2 is planned for completion by December 2023. The refurbishment of pumpstations was crucial to ensure that sewer is conveyed to WWTW and not discharged into the environment.
- (2) The Department conducted assessments and found that the challenges of water and sanitation at the municipality are due to the following:
- (i) Poor governance and management at the municipality; poor operation and maintenance of infrastructure; lack of appropriate skills at all levels in the municipality
  - (ii) Weak billing and revenue collection resulting in inadequate budget for operation and maintenance
  - (iii) Inadequate and dilapidated bulk water infrastructure
  - (iv) Dilapidated sewer collector infrastructure
  - (v) Theft and vandalism of critical infrastructure
  - (vi) In-migration into the municipality which leads to increased water services demand
  - (vii) Blockages of sewer systems caused by citizens disposing foreign objects into the sewer systems.
- (3) The DWS supported the municipality with its application to the Budget Facility for Infrastructure (BFI) at National Treasury to obtain funding to refurbish the main supply line, replace the old asbestos distribution pipes, upgrade the Riverton WTW and to refurbish pumpstations. The BFI subsequently approved R1,9 billion funding through the DWS over the medium term as follows:

| Financial Year | Funding      |
|----------------|--------------|
| 2023/24        | R86 million  |
| 2024/25        | R492 million |
| 2025/26        | R574 million |

The allocations in the outer years will be dependent on adequate expenditure of the allocation for this year. DWS will therefore be engaging with the Municipality to advise them on measures that should be put in place to ensure that the allocation is spent timeously, and the money is not taken away.

- (4) The DWS initiated administrative enforcement actions which resulted in the refurbishment of the wastewater infrastructure by SPLM through DWS grant funding and COGHSTA municipal grant in 2022. This collaborative effort resulted in:
- Refurbishment of the 33ml/day Homevale WWTW and construction of a 15ml/day extension to existing WWTW to upgrade capacity to 48ml/day.
  - Replacement of sewer outfall pipeline between Gogga pump station and Homevale WWTW.
  - Leak repairs at Gogga Pump station.
- (5) Directives were issued by the DWS to the municipality in terms of its regulatory role in February 2016, September 2016, January 2018, December 2018, February 2021, March 2022 and July 2022 to direct the municipality to stop pollution and rectify the infrastructure as well as rehabilitate the polluted areas. Representations were received by DWS from the municipality for some of the issued Directives. The municipality has informed DWS that it is unable to comply due to financial challenges. Furthermore, theft and vandalism of infrastructure was identified by the municipality as an ongoing problem that contributes to the infrastructure being dysfunctional.

To ensure that SPLM operates and maintains its infrastructure in accordance with the legislative requirements, DWS has instituted further enforcement actions. Civil enforcement action in the form of a court interdict application through the office of the State Attorney is underway. This action, if favourable by the court, will result in the issuance of a court order to SPLM which will have both legal and criminal implications should they fail to comply.

---0000---

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

*SPhillips*

**DR SEAN PHILLIPS  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL  
DATE: 4 June 2023**

DRAFT REPLY: APPROVED/  NOT APPROVED/ AMENDED

*S Mchunu*

**MR SENZO MCHUNU, MP  
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION  
DATE: 13/06/2023**