



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 475

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 09 June 2023
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 25)

475. Mr G Michalakis (Free State: DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:

- (1) Whether his department is intervening in the Nqwathe Local Municipality regarding the (a) high levels of e-coli in the water of the Vaal River and (b) reportedly positive cholera tests that have been conducted; if not, why not; if so, how is the intervention take place;
- (2) whether his department is conducting any tests on the treated water that is being supplied to the communities in the said municipality through the reticulation systems and through water tanker contractors; if not, why not; if so,
- (3) whether the state of water that is being supplied will be determined; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) whether the source of cholera contaminated water is determined; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

- (1) (a) In 2021 the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) issued a notice for intention to issue a directive in terms of section 19(3) of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No 36 of 1998) to Nqwathe Local Municipality (LM) for pollution. During May 2023 there was a site inspection of a manhole which was spilling in Parys polluting Vaal River, and DWS is finalising issuance of a Directive to Nqwathe LM.

(b) DWS collected raw water samples from the Vaal River on 31 May 2023. This was done upstream and downstream of where the manhole in Parys was spilling

sewer into the river (kilometers from Vredefort WTW abstraction point). According to the results, Cholera was not isolated (not found).

(2) DWS is conducting tests on a weekly basis in at the following points:

- Drinking water sources - Water Treatment Works (WTW) and Boreholes,
- Raw water, and
- Wastewater effluent from the Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW).


There is a technical team led by DWS which is established to deal specifically with conducting water tests and advising on interventions required to improve the status of water quality in Ngwathe Local Municipality during Cholera outbreak. This team is comprised of DWS, Fezile Dabi District Municipality, the Ngwathe Local Municipality, and Department of Health. In order to maximise the scope of testing water in Parys and Vredefort, Fezile Dabi District municipality collects samples from tanks and distribution networks. It should however be noted that under normal circumstances it is the responsibility of the Water Services Authority to conduct operational testing of water quality while the DWS conduct regular monitoring for audit purposes.

(3) Cholera has thus far not been found in all the drinking water sources including the Vaal River with latest results received on the 08 June 2023.


(4) No, there was never cholera found in any of the water samples tested by DWS as per response to question 3 above.

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


DR SEAN PHILLIPS
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
DATE: 23/06/23

DRAFT REPLY: APPROVED/ NOT APPROVED/ AMENDED


MR SENZO MCHUNU, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION
DATE: 27/06/23