



## 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 525**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 15 June 2023**  
**(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 26)**

**525. Mr S F Du Toit (North West: FF Plus) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:**

(a) When will the malfunctioning water reticulation works at the (i) Groot Marico and (ii) Zeerust sewage treatment plant be resolved which results in the ongoing pollution of freshwater streams and springs and (b) what steps will be taken to ensure that no further pollution takes place in the surrounding freshwater resources in each case?

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#### **MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION**

(a) The Groot Marico wastewater treatment works is fully operational. The Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality (NMMDM) has plans in place to address flooding from the old pond and modify the design of the sludge lagoon to prevent overflows into nearby water resources. A 24 hour shift operation was started by the municipality in May 2023.

The NMMDM embarked on a project to refurbish the Zeerust wastewater treatment plant in 2020. The scope of work included the return of service of the inlet works, BNR reactor, RAS/WAS system, clarifier, and related sub-systems. The professional service provider commenced with the operation and maintenance of the plant in December 2022. The scope includes the introduction of 24 hour operation, optimisation of the refurbished plant equipment, as well as repairs and preventative maintenance.

The finalisation of the refurbishment of the Zeerust WWTW plant was delayed due to the termination of the mechanical and electrical works contractor, due to slow progress and non-performance. The NMMDM then started a new procurement process but encountered challenges because bids submitted were above the remaining budget

- (b) The Department will continue to monitor the implementation of the action plans for both plants submitted by the municipality and if no progress is noted, further enforcement action will be taken against Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality for recurring pollution of the water resources.

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



**DR SEAN PHILLIPS**  
**DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

DATE: 12/07/23

DRAFT REPLY: APPROVED/ NOT APPROVED/ AMENDED



**MR SENZO MCHUNU, MP**  
**MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION**

DATE: 21/07/23