



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 642

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 15 SEPTEMBER 2023
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 33)

642. Ms C Visser (North West: DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:

- (1) (a) For how long have the (i) Thabong and (ii) Virginia Waste Water Treatment Works main pump stations not been active, (b) what are the (i) main reasons and (ii) consequences of inactivity in each case, (c) what happens to the raw sewage that was supposed to go through such facilities and (d) what is the volume of waste water that each facility was intended to process on a daily basis;
- (2) whether any plans are in place to refurbish the said facilities; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

- (1)(a) (i) The main pump station for Thabong Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW) is the T8 sewer pump station. This pump station has never been out of operation since its refurbishment in 2019.
(ii) Virginia sewer pump station is out of operation and has been overflowing since October 2020 as reported to DWS.
- (b) (i) Virginia pump station is dysfunctional as a result of vandalism and electrical cables theft.
(ii) In relation to the Virginia pump station, the consequence of non-functioning is that raw sewage is overflowing to the emergency pond and consequently to Sand River.
- (c) Although the T8 pump station is operational, due to dysfunctionality of the Thabong

WWTW, the sewage which is pumped through the pump station, is ultimately diverted to Witpan WWTW while the other is spilling into the Moster canal, and consequently to Sand River.

Virginia pump station raw sewage is overflowing to the emergency pond and consequently to Sand River.

- (d) The T8 sewer pump station is designed to process 12MI/day; however, the current flow is estimated at 8.5MI/day as calculated using population size.

Virginia main pump station is designed to process 26MI/day; however, the flow when its operational is estimated at 11.9MI/day as calculated using population size.

- (2) The department has appointed Vaal Central Board for the refurbishment of both Thabong and Virginia WWTW. DWS is planning to start with the refurbishment work for Thabong WWTW during the 2023/24 financial year. A contractor was appointed on the 05 September 2023. Furthermore, the department is currently conducting feasibility study and implementation readiness study for upgrading of Thabong WWTW.


With reference to Virginia WWTW, DWS has planned to start with the refurbishment in the 2024/25 financial year.

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


FRANS MOATSHE
DIRECTOR-GENERAL (ACTING)
DATE: 2023/09/29

DRAFT REPLY: APPROVED/ NOT APPROVED/ AMENDED


MR SENZO MCHUNU, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION
DATE: 06/10/2023