



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Reference: 6/2/2/6

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 2423

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 05 DECEMBER 2024
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 26 OF 2024)

2423.Mr L J Basson (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:

Whether, with reference to directives issued by Judge Langa in the matter of *The Minister of Water and Sanitation vs Msukaligwa Local Municipality* (Case No: 4860/2022) to the first respondent, Msukaligwa Local Municipality, concerning unlawful water use and environmental rehabilitation at the Ermelo Water Waste Treatment Works (details furnished), the Msukaligwa Local Municipality, has (a) ceased unlawful water use at the Ermelo Water Waste Treatment Works, (b) applied for water use registration as mandated by the court order and (c) submitted and implemented an approved rehabilitation plan, as well as filed a close-out report with her department within the specified time frames; if not, what is the position in each case; if so, what are the relevant details in each case?

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MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

- (a) The cessation of these operations is not a feasible solution, as it would necessitate the closure of the wastewater treatment facilities and the domestic and industrial sewage currently flowing into the existing network would have nowhere to be directed. The solution at hand is for DWS to support the Msukaligwa Municipality to implement corrective action plans and apply for a Water Use Licence, ensuring that this essential service continues to operate without causing public health or environmental issues.

(b) The Msukalingwa Local Municipality initially submitted an application for a Water Use License. However, the application was withdrawn by the Department because of outstanding section 21(c) and (i) water uses which were identified during a site visit. Although the application had already been considered by DWS to a certain extent before the additional uses were identified by DWS on site, the municipality could not upload the revised technical report since the DWS had closed the application on the eWULAAS system. Given the urgency of the situation, the municipality was advised to reapply to ensure that the correct report could be submitted.

The municipality must revise the technical reports to include all water uses and clearly outline the activities on the Master Layout Plan, especially those located near watercourses. A new application has been submitted on eWULAAS on 28 November 2024 and is currently being assessed. A site visit is scheduled to take place during February 2025, which will involve the compliance and inspection (Section 21C and I) team which will include a civil engineer. Following the site visit, the Record of Recommendation (RoR) will be prepared.

(c) The Msukaligwa Local Municipality submitted a rehabilitation plan on October 20, 2023, for departmental review. However, the plan was returned to the municipality to address the Department's comments. As at the beginning of December 2024, the municipality had not provided an updated rehabilitation plan. In response, the Department has issued a non-compliance letter due to the municipality's failure to update the rehabilitation plan and implement the action plan to improve operations and maintenance at the Ermelo Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW).

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

Shillips

DR SEAN PHILLIPS
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
DATE: 12 12 2024

DRAFT REPLY: APPROVED/ NOT APPROVED/ AMENDED



MISS PEMMY C.P. MAJODINA, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION
DATE: 20 - 12 - 2024