



## **water & sanitation**

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Reference: 6/2/2/6

### **NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

### **FOR ORAL REPLY**

### **QUESTION NO 134**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 03 MARCH 2026 (INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 05)**

**★134. Mr V G Reddy (MK) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:**

Whether her department has conducted a recent national audit of dysfunctional water and wastewater treatment works, particularly in certain municipalities (details furnished); if not, why not; if so, what (a) number of treatment plants are currently operating below compliance standards in terms of the Green Drop and Blue Drop reports and (b) immediate interventions have been initiated where municipal leadership has demonstrably failed to maintain water infrastructure?

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

(a) The Department of Water and Sanitation undertook comprehensive Green Drop (wastewater), Blue Drop (drinking water) and No Drop (water use efficiency) Progress Assessment of all municipal water and wastewater systems nationally in 2025.

The Department is currently finalising the reports, which are scheduled for release by the end of March 2026. The detailed performance outcomes, including the number of treatment plants operating below compliance thresholds, will be made available upon publication of the reports.

The Department has also commenced with the next round of comprehensive Blue Drop and No Drop assessment and Green Drop progress assessments.

The Department monitors all critical systems that were identified in the prior Drop Reports against the water services national standards as well as the submission and implementation of corrective action plans.

The Department also monitors municipal systems for compliance with water use authorisation requirements and the National Water Act. Non-compliance is dealt with through administrative enforcement actions.

(b) The Department takes administrative, civil and criminal enforcement measures where non-compliance are detected or found upon investigating complaints. For municipality wastewater systems, this includes network sewer spillages as well as wastewater treatment works that are non-operational or not functioning at full capacity, leading to untreated water being released into the environment. In terms of municipal water treatment works regulatory measures can be applied to address over-abstraction of water resources in terms of water use authorisation limits.

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

*Phillips*

**DR SEAN PHILLIPS**  
**DIRECTOR-GENERAL**  
**DATE:**

✓  
DRAFT REPLY: APPROVED/ NOT APPROVED/ AMENDED



**MISS PEMMY C.P. MAJODINA, MP**  
**MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION**  
**DATE:** *08-03-2026*