



## water & forestry

Department:  
Water Affairs and Forestry  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1278 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mr M M Swathe (DA), is attached for your consideration, please.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE:

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

MRS L B HENDRICKS MP  
MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY

DATE:

## **NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

### **FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

### **QUESTION NO 1278**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 08 AUGUST 2008**  
**(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 22)**

**1278. Mr M M Swathe (DA) to ask the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry:**

- (1) Whether her department has taken any steps to mitigate the flow of partially treated sewage into the Kamfer Dam in Kimberley; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether any tests have been conducted to ascertain whether the water quality in the dam is responsible for the ill-health of some flamingos that nest around the dam; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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### **REPLY:**

- (1) Yes. Various meetings and site visits with Sol Plaatje Local Municipality and other stakeholders took place to address the problem. Sol Plaatje LM is the owner and operator of the Homevale Waste Water Treatment Works, which is authorized to release sewage into Kamfers dam (a natural pan) after treating it to required standards. Short term crisis interventions are underway with good progress made on various components at the plant, which has to operate above its design capacity, due to increased sewerage inflow. Medium and long term solutions are addressed and are in integrated planning stage. DWAF is fully involved in the implementation process of the agreed upon actions. We receive regular progress reports and do regular site visits.
- (2) The effluent from the Homevale WWTW is monitored and tested on a regular basis by DWAF. Based on the circumstances, we are in process with other role-players in the implementation of a monitoring programme of the water in Kamfers dam, which, as a natural pan, is a closed system with no water use out of it.  
DWAF itself does not have the expertise, nor the normal mandate, to determine the possible impact of water quality on ill-health of the flamingos. Such a study is currently being undertaken by scientists of parties such as Department of Tourism, Environment and Conservation(DTEC), Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa(WESSA) and Birdlife SA. DWAF however remains informed on all progress and findings to see how it should react and/or intervene.