



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1390 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mr G R Morgan (DA); is attached for your consideration.


DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 18/5/10


DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED


MS B P SONJICA, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DATE: 22/05/2010

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1390

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 07 MAY 2010
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 12)

1390. Mr G R Morgan (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether, with reference to her reply to question 1060 on 20 April 2010, there have been any further directives or notices of intention to issue a directive in terms of section 19(3) of the National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998, against the Nkomazi Municipality since the last directive on 12 October 2009; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) what was the response of the municipality to each of the notices of intention to issue a directive and the directive mentioned in the said reply;
- (3) whether any leaks from sewerage infrastructure in Nkomazi Municipality have been reported to her department since 1 March 2010; if not, how was this conclusion reached; if so, what was her department's response;
- (4) whether any steps are being taken to inform water users surrounding Nkomazi Municipality when leaks from sewerage infrastructure into water courses occur; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

- (1) No further directives or notices of intention to issue a directive in terms of section 19(3) of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No 36 of 1998) [the Act] were issued to the Nkomazi Local Municipality (LM). However, it should be noted that there is a pending criminal case against the Nkomazi LM with regards to the Komati Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW) and pump station as well as Malelane WWTW.

With regards to the notice issued on 31 March 2010 regarding the Malelane pump station (which has subsequently been repaired), on 14 May 2010, my Department issued a reminder letter to the municipality to provide an action plan to prevent recurrence(s).

- (2) Table 1 below provides a summary of the municipality's response to issues raised.

NOTICE/ DIRECTIVE ISSUED TO NKOMAZI LM	NKOMAZI LM RESPONSE TO THE NOTICE/ DIRECTIVE
Komatipoort WWTW (Section 19(3) and 53(1) Directive dated 12 October 2009)	On 25 November 2009, the municipality acknowledged the non compliance to some regulations and indicated that due to capacity gaps, they have requested the assistance of the Ehlanzeni District Municipality. In an attempt to address the challenges, the municipality indicated that a consultant and a contractor were appointed to provide solutions.
Malelane WWTW (Section 19(3) Notice dated 11 February 2009)	On 24 February 2009, the municipality indicated that the following actions were to be implemented: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct sampling in all WWTWs that discharge effluent into the river(s);• Ensure that such samples are analysed by an accredited laboratory;

NOTICE/ DIRECTIVE ISSUED TO NKOMAZI LM	NKOMAZI LM RESPONSE TO THE NOTICE/ DIRECTIVE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that such results are made available to the Department before end of March 2009; • Replacement of the wastewater flow meters with new meters calibrated according to the required standards by the end of April 2009; and • Ensure that the application for a water use license is submitted to the Department.
Komati WWTW and pump station Section 19(3) Notice dated 8 April 2009)	No response was received from the municipality despite a reminder on 1 August 2009 to make representation.
Malelane pump station (Section 19(3) Notice dated 31 March 2010)	No response was received from the municipality despite a reminder on 14 May 2010 to make representation. <i>It should however be noted that the pump station has been repaired.</i>

- (3) Yes, my Department received a complaint that the Nkomazi LM was pumping raw sewage. On investigation, my Department noted the malfunctioning of the Malelane pump station as per my reply to question 1060 as well as paragraph (1) above.

I am also mindful of that the Lowvelder News also reported wastewater leaks within the municipal area in an article entitled 'Sewage wreaks havoc in town' on 30 April 2010. My Department is currently investigating the extent of the sewage problem as alleged in the article.

- (4) Yes, the Nkomazi LM has formally informed my Department and the water users within its jurisdiction.

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