



## **water affairs**

Department:  
Water Affairs  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**MINISTRY OF WATER AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

2011-03-28

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**MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 649 FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mrs S P Kopane (DA); is attached for your consideration.

**ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

DATE: 25/03/2011

**DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED**

**MRS B E MOLEWA, MP  
MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

DATE: 29-3-2011

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 649

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 07 MARCH 2011  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 04)

**649. Mrs S P Kopane (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:**

- (1) What is the status of the effluent discharge from the Villiers waste water treatment works (WWTW) in Mafube Municipality and (b) to what extent does the flow into the Villiers WWTW comply with the design specifications of the plant as at the latest specified date for which information is available;
- (2) whether any (a) pre-notice, (b) directives or (c) criminal charges have been issued against the Mafube Municipality for transgressions of the National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether the municipality is making any effort to rehabilitate the Villiers WWTW; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) whether her department is assisting Mafube Municipality in any way to improve its sewerage infrastructure; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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**REPLY:**

- (1) The effluent discharged from the Villiers Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW) is generally compliant. There are however instances when the chemical and bacteriological parameters of the final effluent is non-compliant. These may be attributed to excessive volumes of raw waste received by the plant and operational constraints.
- (1)(b) The Villiers WWTW is currently operating in excess of the capacity it was intended for.
- (2)(a) Yes, a notice was issued to the Mafube Local Municipality (the Municipality) regarding the operation of the Villiers WWTW. The Municipality subsequently responded and provided the requested information (e.g. the Waste Discharge Charge System documents) excluding a water use license application (WULA) for the Villiers WWTW. The Municipality has since indicated that the (WULA) will be submitted.
- (2)(b) No, a directive was not issued as the Municipality responded to the pre-notice. The Department does however intend to issue a directive that will require the Municipality to expedite submission of the WULA.
- (2)(c) No, criminal charges have not been laid against the Municipality. The process of criminal charges will only become applicable if the Municipality fails to respond to any directive and subject to due adherence to the Department's Enforcement Protocol.
- (3) Yes, the Municipality has submitted a report outlining plans to increase the capacity of the Villiers WWTW and rehabilitate the plant's existing infrastructure.

- (4) Yes, a forum dealing with water management in the Wilge catchment exists in which the Municipality partakes. During these meetings, technical aspects relating to water quality management are discussed and the Department provides support on matters raised. Additionally, officials from the Department's Regional Office: Gauteng made themselves available to support the Municipality on technical issues pertaining to the WULA.

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