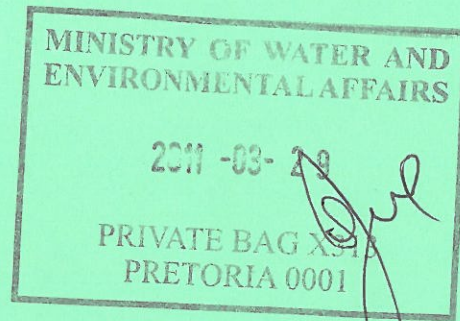




## water affairs

Department:  
Water Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

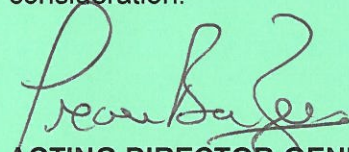


Enquiries: MJ Musekene  
Telephone: 013 759 7313  
Reference: 6/2/2/6

**MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 959 FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mrs J F Terblanche (DA); is attached for your consideration.

  
**ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

DATE: 28/03/2011

**DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED**

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

DATE: 29-3-2011

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 959

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 18 MARCH 2011  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 08)

**959. Mrs J F Terblanche (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:**

- (1) Whether, with reference to her reply to question 118 of 2009 on 22 July 2009, any further steps have been taken to prevent raw sewage from entering the rivers that flow into the Kruger National Park (names furnished); if not, why not; if so, what steps;
- (2) what are the relevant details of water quality samples taken at each of the sampling points in the past three months for each of the above rivers,
- (3) whether any animals have died in the park since 22 July 2009 as a result of high levels of faecal pollution in the rivers; if not, how was this conclusion reached; if so, what are the relevant details?

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**REPLY:**

- (1) Yes, Table 1 below reflects the steps which have been taken by the Department to prevent raw sewage from entering the listed rivers.

**Table 1: Steps taken by the Department**

No	Municipality	River	Details
a.	Nkomazi	Crocodile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A directive was issued during October 2009.</li> <li>• A criminal case has been opened (under CAS 118/11/2009) with the Komatipoort South African Police Service (SAPS). This criminal case is still under investigation.</li> </ul>
b.	Delmas	Olifants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No further action has been taken as the Municipality submitted an action plan and the Department is currently monitoring its implementation.</li> </ul>
c.	Emakhazeni	Elands-tributary of the Crocodile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A directive was issued to the Municipality during February 2010 for operating the Dullstroom Sewage Treatment Works without authorisation. The directive instructed the Municipality to submit a water use licence application and to date no submission has been made.</li> </ul>
d.	Emalahleni	Olifants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A directive was issued during October 2009.</li> <li>• A criminal case has been opened (under CAS 858/11/2009) with the Komatipoort SAPS). This criminal case was <i>nollied</i>.</li> <li>• The Department has through its Accelerated Infrastructure Programme funding refurbished the Bush Pump Stations and Clarinet 1, 2 and 3.</li> </ul>
e.	Bushbuckridge	Sabie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Department has transferred R5.16 million to the Municipality to optimise the wastewater treatment</li> </ul>
f.	Thabachweu	Sabie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No further action has been taken because corrective action has been taken by the Municipality.</li> </ul>

No	Municipality	River	Details
g.	Mbombela	Crocodile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No further action has been taken as the Municipality submitted an action plan and the Department is currently monitoring its implementation.</li> </ul>
h.	Govan Mbeki	Olifants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No further action has been taken as the Municipality submitted an action plan and the Department is currently monitoring its implementation.</li> </ul>
i.	Kungwini	Olifants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No further action has been taken as the Municipality has taken corrective action by re-installation of the cables of the pump station that were stolen.</li> </ul>
j.	Greater Sekhukhune District	Olifants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A directive was issued to the Municipality during February 2010 for operating the Burgersfort sewage works without an authorisation. The directive instructed the Municipality to submit a water use licence application and to date no submission has been made.</li> </ul>

- (2) Table 2 below reflects the details of water quality samples taken at each of the sampling points in the past three months for each of the above rivers.

**Table 2: Sampling results- December to February 2011**

No	Sampling Point	Parameter (cfu/100ml)	December 2010	January 2011	February 2011	General Standard
a)	Olifants River Upstream of Riverview	E. coli	2419	2419	2419	1000
b)	Olifants River Downstream of Groblersdal	E. coli	Not Applicable	58	192	1000
c)	Sabie River at Sabie sawmill	E. coli	nil	nil	201	1000
d)	Sabie River at Kruger Gate	E. coli	866	345	67	1000
e)	Crocodile at Komatipoort before confluence with the Komati River	E. coli	nil	2419	nil	1000
f)	Crocodile River at Dullstroom	E. coli	67	1732	201	1000
g)	Groot Sand River Upstream	E. coli	nil	260	201	1000
h)	Sand River downstream point	E. coli	nil	228	649	1000

- (3) No animals have died in the Kruger National Park since 22 July 2009 as a result of faecal pollution. This conclusion is based on the standard operating procedure that pollution incidences that kill and/or have the potential to kill aquatic biota (eg fish kills) are reported to the Department and such reports were not lodged with Department's Regional Office: Mpumalanga. Further, on receipt of this national assembly question, the Department confirmed its conclusion with the Kruger National Park.

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