



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 COUNCIL OF PROVINCES: QUESTION 239 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above question asked by Mr V M Manzini (DA-Mpumalanga) is attached for your consideration.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 23/05/2012

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DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

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

DATE: 2012/05/24

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 239

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 18 MAY 2012
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 13)

239. Mr V M Manzini (DA-Mpumalanga) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether she has been informed that the sewage (a) plants in the Nkomazi Municipality are dysfunctional and (b) waters flow into the surrounding rivers; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so,
- (2) whether an investigation will be conducted into the matter; if not, why not; if so, when;
- (3) whether she has taken any action to remedy the situation; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

- (1) Yes, the Department is aware that the Nkomazi Local Municipality is struggling to effectively manage its sewage plants and the Department conducted an investigation into the matter and the findings thereof are part of the 2012 Green Drop Progress Report.

The Department Regional Office: Mpumalanga together with the Inkomati Catchment Management Agency are supporting and enforcing compliance to remedy the state of sewage plants in the Nkomazi Local Municipality, hence the following measures are being implemented:

- The funding of the refurbishment of Schoemansdal and Tonga Oxidation Ponds as part of the Water Services Operating Subsidy Grant under schedule 6 of the Division of Revenue Act. The total amount of R376 200.00 and R336 000.00 was spent on the refurbishment of the Schoemansdal and Tonga Oxidation Ponds in 2010 respectively. The Department has further allocated R4, 720 million in the 2012/13 financial year on Schedule 6 of the Division of Revenue Act to assist the Nkomazi Local Municipality with the refurbishment of sewage and water plants.
- All the sewage and water treatment plants under the Nkomazi Local Municipality were classified as per regulation 2834. This classification is necessary to determine the competency levels of the operators and sewage treatment plants.
- The training of five Process Controllers within the Nkomazi Local Municipality (of which one operate sewage treatment plants) to be able to have the competency to operate the sewage treatment plants optimally has been conducted in conjunction with the Energy and Water Sector Education Training Authority.

- The compliance monitoring samples are taken to check the compliance levels of the effluent that is discharged into rivers. The final effluent is being monitored for the three wastewater treatment plants namely Hectorspruit, Mhlati Kop, Komatipoort.
- To date, four notices and one directive have been issued linked to the sewage treatment plants of the Nkomazi Local Municipality. Criminal charges linked to pollution of water resources have been investigated by the Tonga South African Police Services (SAPS) since November 2009 under CAS 118/11/2009 and the matter is pending with the SAPS and the Barberton Court.

(2) Falls away.

(3) Falls away.

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