



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Reference: 6/2/2/6

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 190

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 25 MARCH 2022
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 8)

190. Ms D C Christians (Northern Cape: DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:

- (1) Whether he would commit to do an oversight visit to Kimberley to witness the exact extent of the disaster of the sewer spills and water wastage in the Sol Plaatje Local Municipality (details furnished); if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant details.
- (2) whether Section 139 intervention will assist Sol Plaatje Local Municipality in terms of such disaster; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details.
- (3) whether the city has the R5 billion to repair the Gogga sewer plant; if not, when will such devastating spillages be attended to; if so, what are the relevant details?

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MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

- (1) The Minister undertook an oversight visit to the Northern Cape and Sol Plaatje Local Municipality in September 2021 and a provincial stakeholder engagement on water and sanitation security in January 2022.
- (2) On 30 June 2021, Cabinet resolved on the development, finalisation and implementation of the local Government Framework on the Municipal Support and Interventions Packages (MSIP). Cabinet further resolved that before any intervention is invoked national and provincial government must implement the existing legislative framework to support municipalities. To this end, Section 154 and 156 of the Constitution should be invoked.

To this end, the Sol Plaatje Local Municipality has already been identified and categorised as a dysfunctional Municipality in terms of the five key municipal functionality risk rating

indicators. To support the Municipality, National Treasury (NT) and the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) through Municipal Infrastructure Support Agent (MISA); in collaboration with the Provincial COGTA and Treasury will lead the implementation of the Municipal Specific Support Plans.

- (3) The Gogga pumpstation was refurbished and outfall sewer line to the Homevale Waste Water Treatment Works was upgraded at a cost of R25 million. However, there are still discharges of untreated sewer from the Homevale WWTW that reach Kamfersdam pan from the balance of the estimated daily flow of 26 to 30 MI/d. Ongoing work is also being done by the Municipality to contain further spillages:
- Construction has begun on a new pumpstation for Cartersridge
 - Operation and maintenance of existing sewer pumpstations has been improved throughout the Sol Plaatje LM

Ongoing poor waste management within the Sol Plaatje Municipality, has led the DWS to issue numerous administrative notices in terms of sections 19(3) and 53(1) of the National Water Act to the Municipality. This administrative process has been unfolding since 2015 and includes inspections and audits of spillages as well as following up on plans and representations submitted by the Municipality. To date, the administrative actions include five directives issued to the municipality directing it to stop pollution, rectify sewer conveyance and ensure the treatment of sewer to adequate standards.


The administrative action processes are being implemented by the DWS in accordance with the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, 2000 (Act No. 3 of 2000) to assist the municipality with the management of both water and wastewater. All other intergovernmental processes have been exhausted by DWS resulting in minor improvements.

In this regard, the DWS is considering instituting criminal charges against the Accounting Officer of the Municipality and applying for a court interdict which will compel Sol Plaatje Local Municipality to stop with the pollution and to remedy the effects of the pollution caused.


The Sol Plaatje Local Municipality is also earmarked for a possible intervention partnership to ensure that adequate skills and capacity is availed towards a sustainable improvement of sanitation services.

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DRAFT REPLY: RECOMMENDED/ NOT RECOMMENDED/ AMENDED →


DR SEAN PHILLIPS
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
DATE: 7/4/22 ✓

DRAFT REPLY: APPROVED/ NOT APPROVED/ AMENDED


MR SENZO MCHUNU, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION
DATE: 19/04/2022