



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS hands over R44 million Waste Water Treatment Plants to municipalities

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There will be no spillage of sewage again from Leeuwkuil and Oranjeville Waste Water Treatment Plants to the value of R44, 4 million to Emfuleni District Municipality and Metsimaholo Local Municipality in Free State.

The hand over took place this week after the completion of their refurbishment by the Department of Water and Sanitation. The Director of Internal Control in the Department, Mfanukhona Hlatshwayo, said the hand over was part of the department's intervention on dysfunctional treatment plants that spilled sewage into the Vaal River. The Oranjeville Waste Water Treatment Plant was refurbished at a cost of R8,012 844 million before being handed over to Metsimaholo District Municipality while Leeuwkuil Waste Water Treatment Plant was refurbished to the tune of R36,417 435 million and was subsequently handed over to Emfuleni District Municipality in Vanderbijlpark.

Hlatshwayo said the intervention started in February this year amid reports of sewage from the two plants spilling into Vaal River. This was the department's effort to stem the tide of pollution of the Vaal River System which feeds the Vaal Dam.

The DWS has set aside more than R300 million to upgrade 26 dysfunctional waste water treatment works in parts of Gauteng and Free State.

This comes amidst fears of raw sewage flowing into the Vaal River posing a serious threat to the environment, social and economic uses of water. Following the fears, in 2015 the department appointed an engineering and consultancy firm to determine if Refengkgotso Waste Water Treatment Plant in Deneysville contributed to pollution in the Vaal River.

According to the preliminary report released recently, Refengkgotso WWTW which is managed by Metsimaholo Local Municipality, though originally designed to get 2.0 mega litres per day, by the end of 2015 it exceeded the capacity by more than 150%. It instead received average daily inflows of about 57 litres per second which works out to about 5MI/d, meaning that the plant is overloaded.

A technical analysis done on the infrastructure of the plant shows that the quarry to which the non-compliant treated sewage pumped is small. However, the Metsimaholo Municipality



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undertakes regular maintenance on the facultative pond, two aerobic ponds, bio-filters tanks, humus tanks, maturation channels and sludge dry beds as these are in good conditions. An emergency intervention was launched by the department, as a way of repairing the 26 dysfunctional WWTW through the allocation of the R 300 million.

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