



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS makes interventions to improve the operation of priority waste water treatment works

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The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) is making critical interventions to ensure that priority Water Treatment Works (WWTWs) in the Vaal comply with the effluent discharge standard.

Addressing the delegates at the two-day Kingfisher Conference held at Emperor's Palace in Boksburg, Acting CEO for Vaal Proto Catchment Management Agency, Dr Konanani Khorommbi, said there was a general problem of aging municipal infrastructure and the contravention of wastewater discharge conditions.

Khorommbi cited a number of undesirable developments which were closely associated with these two challenges, saying because of this state of affairs a person died in the Bloemhof in 2014 and a corpse of a young boy was retrieved from the quarry holding raw effluent from Refengkhotsa WWTWs. He also cited incidents of fish kills associated with poor water quality in the Loch Vaal.

The Department has identified about 24 WWTWs from 18 municipalities, some of which discharge directly into the Vaal River as part of the emergency intervention work.

He said to address these twin challenges the Department had sourced budget from savings in 2015/16 financial year and has appointed a project management team to manage the project that will deal decisively with the emergency interventions that were commissioned in March this year. He said the Vaal Proto-CMA has been overseeing the project.

"In Deneysville which is situated in the Metsimaholo Municipality, a directive was issued for retaining effluent in the quarry without an authorisation. Recently, a water use license was issued to Metsimaholo Local Municipality to enable them to finalise the construction of a new pipeline," Dr Khorommbi said.

He said whereas intervention work continues to date the department has not issued notices and directives to Villiers in the Mafube Municipality.

He said directives were issued for pollution in Secunda WWTWs in the Govan Mbeki Municipality, Frankfort WWTWs under the Mafube Local Municipality, Standerton WWTWs under the Lekwa Local Municipality and Harrismith under the Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipality.

"The objective is only to bring them to functionality and in compliance with effluent discharge standards," Khorommbi said.

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