



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

MUNICIPALITIES RECEIVE MUCH NEEDED WASTE WATER INJECTION

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Emakhazeni and Dr Pixley ka Isaka Seme local municipalities are currently receiving a much needed injection from the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in relation to funding for the refurbishment of their waste water treatment plants. Refurbishment projects are currently underway in Waterval Boven, Machadodorp and Belfast in Emakhazeni Local Municipality and in Amersfort in the Dr Pixley ka Isaka Seme Local Municipality to ensure that the plants are compliant.

As the custodian of South Africa's water resources, the DWS is responsible for the effective management of the nation's water resources to meet the needs of the current and future generations. As South Africa is a water scarce country, it is of utmost importance that our water resources are well looked after so as to prevent the pollution of our limited water.

In discharging its oversight functions, the department found high levels of sewer pollution which negatively impacted on water quality in our water resources. Upon further investigations, it was discovered that the pollution came mostly from dysfunctional municipal waste water treatment plants. Waste water treatment works in most municipalities are in a state of decay due to poor maintenance. The situation is also compounded by the fact that communities are increasing but the infrastructure is still the same, which leads to overloading, leading to the spillages we experience. Most plants are operating above their design capacity.

In preventing the further pollution of our water resources, the DWS is intervening in the municipalities mostly affected by sewer spillages through the funding of the refurbishments of the waste water treatment works. Waste water treatment works need to be operating optimally to ensure that treated effluent of acceptable standards is discharged into the water resources.

Communities are urged to work together with government to ensure that our waste water treatment works are kept in good condition and prevent unnecessary sewer spillages that pollute our limited water resources.



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