



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Overloaded Vaal WWTWs need urgent intervention to avert pollution

10 February 2016

Sebokeng and Vaal Marina Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTWs) require urgent funding intervention of R4, 5 million and R1, 86 million respectively to address the problems of mainly overloading and help prevent pollution of the Vaal River and its tributaries as well as Vaal Dam.

These two plants in Sedibeng District Municipality are in the vicinity of Vaal River and Vaal Dam. Sometime last year these two plants were claimed to be contributing to the pollution of the Vaal Dam. This prompted the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) to commission investigations to ascertain whether this was indeed the case.

The department appointed a development and engineering consultancy to do conditional assessments on both WWTW. Their report has revealed that in addition to the amounts noted above, an additional amount of R6,8 million is needed in the short term for Sebokeng and R1 million for Vaal Marina plants.

Residential housing with water and sanitation services is growing in the areas serviced by these WWTWs. This has led to the plants receiving too much effluent than they were designed to get which causes them to function beyond their capacity. It also led to the plants releasing treated fluid which is below standard into the water resources in their locality.

Other issues that the assessment report alludes to are the maintenance backlogs, human resources shortage, damaged equipment, shortage of chemicals to treat the effluent and aged infrastructure. The report recommends repairs, procurement of new equipment, rehabilitation and modification of certain elements of devices to the latest technology.

While Sebokeng and Vaal Marina WWTWs have been having challenges, they were also trying to improve their situation through some activities. The former currently has a project to increase its capacity by 50MI/day which will end in January 2017. The latter has advertised a tender to rehabilitate their stabilising dam.

It is important to note that the estimated amounts that pertain to the funding needs are not definitive. These may rise once more detailed work is carried on the two WWTWs.

DWS will provide supportive and regulatory roles as much as it can to ensure that these two plants do not contribute to the pollution of the Vaal water resources.

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

**For media releases, speeches and news visit the Water and Sanitation portal at:
www.dws.gov.za**