



**MINISTRY
PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NUMBER: 656 [CW753E]
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656. Ms C Labuschagne (Western Cape: DA) asked the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure:

Sewage pumps at Odendaalsrus Correctional Centre

- (1) Whether it is in contravention of section 151 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998), for her and her department not to (a) address the sewage pumps at the Odendaalsrus Correctional Centre and (b) rehabilitate the already contaminated water streams and land around such a facility; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so,
- (2) whether she has been informed that her department's failure to address the said matter constitutes a human rights violation; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) (a) what steps are being taken to address said issue and (b) what are the relevant details in this regard?

CW753E

REPLY:

The Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure:

- (1) I was informed the Department of Public Works & Infrastructure (DPWI) and Mathjabeng Municipality had a challenge as both their sewerage plants were faulty,

hence, in contravention of Section 151 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998).

- (a) The DPWI in conjunction with Mathjabeng Municipality have addressed the problem by having both sewer plants running. DPWI Bloemfontein Regional Office has installed one pump, grinder and mixer and the pump station is currently working.
 - (b) The Mathjabeng Municipality has put up an action plan to rehabilitate the already contaminated water streams and land around such facility as this falls within their jurisdiction and not under the DPWI Bloemfontein Regional Office.
- (2) The Bloemfontein Regional Office DPWI and the Client Department (DCS) has on several occasions engaged with other Stakeholders in the Region such as South African Human Rights Commission , Department of Water and Sanitation and Mathjabeng Municipality in an endeavour to completely address the matter and to avoid Human Rights violation.
- (3)
- (a) A task team has been developed to address the problem by different spheres of government, namely:
 - **Department of Correctional Services** - Monitoring the sewerage plant on daily basis in case of any fault on the temporary solution to ensure continuous running of the sewer plant
 - **Department of Water and Sanitation** – Monitoring the implementation of action plan and progress against the timelines and offering advisory support
 - **Department of Public Works and Infrastructure** – Currently repairing the remaining two pumps, which are currently at the manufacture. Contractor has also been appointed to undertake the installation of pumps once they are repaired at the manufacture.
 - **Matjhabeng Municipality** – Fully repairing their sewer pump station, implementation of action plan to clean the water stream channels
 - (b)
 - Matjhabeng Municipality pump station has been restored back to operation.
 - DPWI pump station has been temporary restored back to operation awaiting repair of two faulty pump in order for the pump station to be fully operational.
 - There are no more sewer spillage inside the prison.
 - The task team is working to ensure that storm water channels are cleaned.
 - The task team in negotiation with guest house owner to unblock the storm water channel passing through his property which is causing water to be stagnant.