



Hon. Marina van Zyl, MP

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23 September 2025

The Municipal Manager
Joe Gqabi District Municipality

Attention: Municipal Manager

RE: RAW SEWERAGE POLLUTION OF THE ORANGE RIVER – NURSURY PUMP STATION

Dear Mr Nonjola,

It has come to my attention that raw sewerage is directly flowing into the Orange River from the back of the Nursery Pump Station. This pollution flows downstream, and eventually into the Gariep Dam, a critical water resource for multiple communities and agricultural activities.

This ongoing discharge constitutes a serious violation of Section 151 (1)(j) of the National Water Act, 36 of 1998, and Section 28 of the National Environmental Management Act, 107 of 1998 which states that any person who causes, has caused, or may cause pollution of a water resource must take all reasonable measures to prevent such pollution from occurring, continuing, or recurring. The failure to act on this matter is not only unlawful but also endangers public health, the environment, and the regional water supply.

I hereby request that the Joe Gqabi District Municipality:

1. Provide a written rehabilitation plan to address and stop this pollution at its source.
2. Indicate what immediate steps are being taken to mitigate the ongoing contamination of the Orange River.
3. Advise on long-term measures to ensure that the pump station and surrounding infrastructure are maintained to prevent further pollution.

Given the severity of this matter, I request your written response within seven (7) days from the date of this letter. Should no remedial action or adequate response be forthcoming, I will be compelled to escalate this matter to the Department of Water and Sanitation, the Green Scorpions, and lay a criminal charge at SAPS.

This is a matter of concern to the communities who depend on this water resource, and immediate action is not only expected but legally required.

Yours faithfully,



Hon. Marina van Zyl, MP

DA Spokesperson: Cogta

Location:

