

25. Hon. W Pretorius (DA) asks the Hon. MEC responsible for COGTA&HS: Mr. T Mokoena.

In view of the persistent sewage leaks from the manholes in Kruger and Hospital Streets, Bethulie, which are flowing into the streets and ultimately into the catchment area of the Orange River:

1. What immediate interventions will be undertaken to stop the leaks and prevent further contamination of the Orange River catchment area? If none, why not?
2. What is the estimated volume of raw sewage leaking daily, and what environmental impact assessments have been conducted? If none, why not?
3. What is the designed capacity of the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) serving Bethulie?
4. What is the current sewage load being processed, and is the infrastructure capable of handling the demand?
5. When was the last major maintenance or upgrade conducted on the sewer network and WWTP, and what was the scope of work?
6. How much has been spent to date on maintenance, upgrades, or emergency repairs related to the Bethulie sewer system? Provide a detailed breakdown of expenditure, including (i) service providers, (ii) costs per repair, and (iii) procurement compliance.
7. Have additional funds been allocated for further repairs or upgrades? If so, what are the projected costs and timelines?
8. What have been the key challenges in resolving the persistent sewage leaks in these areas?
9. Has the sewer infrastructure been affected by theft, vandalism, or security breaches?
10. If so, what financial losses have been incurred, and what security measures have been implemented to prevent further incidents?
11. Are there plans to install monitoring systems or deploy security personnel to protect critical infrastructure? If not, why not?

NO RESPONSE

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RESPONSE 02/04/2025

1. Immediate Interventions: The Municipality is actively resolving sewer spillages as they occur. Recently, a hydro-jetting service was deployed to Bethulie to unblock the sewer pipes.
2. Estimated Volume of Leaks: The estimated volume of possible sewage leakage in Bethulie is not known due to the unplanned nature of these incidents.
3. Designed Capacity of WWTP: The Bethulie WWTP has a designed capacity of approximately 0.5 Million Gallons per Day (MGL/D).
4. Current Sewage Load: The current sewage load being processed by the WWTP is unknown as the existing infrastructure is outdated and lacks flow meters.
5. Last Major Maintenance or Upgrade: The WWTP does not require an upgrade at this time as it is still within capacity. The Municipality should focus on maintenance and refurbishment efforts. Recent projects include the refurbishment of the Lephoi pump station and an upgrade to the Perkamp pump station along with a 3KM sewer line completed in 2022.
6. Expenditure on Maintenance and Repairs: Detailed information regarding expenditures for maintenance, upgrades, or emergency repairs related to the Bethulie sewer system will be provided.

7. Future Funding for Repairs: The Municipality is actively seeking additional funding through WSIG and MIG allocations to further address the sewer challenges in Bethulie.
8. Key Challenges: The main challenges contributing to sewer spillages are aged infrastructure and the Municipality's inability to holistically replace it due to high costs.
9. Vandalism and Security Issues: Yes, there have been incidents of vandalism and theft affecting the facilities in the past.
10. Financial Losses and Security Measures: In response to these challenges, the Municipality has implemented a night shift for employees to monitor and protect the facilities.
11. Monitoring Systems and Security: Yes, as the Municipality upgrades its facilities, it is also enhancing security measures to prevent further incidents.