

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

In view of the upgrades to the sewage pump stations (Perdekamp, Lephoi and Oxidation Plant Pump Stations) and sewage lines in Bethulie, Kopanong Local Municipality, and the ongoing sewerage infrastructure crisis in the town and serious leaks into the catchment area of the Orange River:

1. What specific upgrades have been undertaken at all sewage pump stations in Bethulie, and what are the full cost breakdowns per line item for each of these upgrades?
2. When is the estimated completion date of these upgrades? Is this still an achievable date?
3. Who are the appointed contractors and service providers for the refurbishment and upgrade of these pump stations, and what amounts have been paid to each service provider to date?
4. Was the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) used to fund any part of these upgrades? If so:
 - a. What was the total amount allocated from the MIG for this project?
 - b. How much of this allocation has been spent to date?
 - c. How much remains unspent?
5. Were all payments to contractors and service providers made only after verification of work completed on-site? If not:
 - a. Why were payments made before work was verified?
 - b. Who authorised these premature payments?
 - c. What financial recovery steps are being taken against any contractor who was paid in full without having completed the required work?
6. What procurement process was followed in appointing contractors for the Bethulie sewer upgrade projects? Were there any deviations from standard SCM procedures? If yes, (a) what were the reasons, (b) who approved the deviations, and (c) what oversight measures were implemented?

NO RESPONSE

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RESPONSE 21/08/2025

1.

The intervention in Bethulie focused on the refurbishment not upgrading of critical sewage infrastructure, following a formal request from the Kopanong Local Municipality to Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta) for urgent support due to persistent sewerage system failures and environmental risks to the Orange River catchment.

The following works were executed across the Perdekamp and Lephoi Pump Stations:

Civil Works

- Site establishment and installation of temporary camp services
- Exposure and protection of existing underground services
- Construction of guard house, overhead cover, and gantry at Perdekamp
- Mass earthworks and disposal of spoil material to a designated municipal site
- Installation of 800m sewer pipeline with manholes and erf connections

- Importation and compaction of red sand for pipe bedding and blanket
- Final site clearance, de-establishment, and initiation of defects liability period

Mechanical Works

Refurbishment, delivery, installation, testing, and commissioning of: 2 × self

-priming centrifugal sewer pumps (Gorman Rupp T3A3S-BFM)

2 × 7kW IEC3 2

-pole, 400V, 3-phase motors

Hydro

-jetting of 1.5km blocked sewer line

Electrical Works

- Refurbishment of 3 electrical panels across the pump stations

2. The project has been fully completed. All works were executed within the approved scope and timeline, with final inspections and commissioning successfully concluded.

3. The appointed service provider for the refurbishment was Cosmo Bro's. All payments were made only after on-site verification of completed work by the municipality.

4. This project was not funded through the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG). Instead, it was funded directly by CoGTA, following the municipality's formal request for emergency intervention.

Cogta Allocation for Refurbishment: R4,766,819.89

Spent to date: R4,703,908.38

Remaining balance: R62,911.51

The successful completion of the refurbishment project has provided much-needed relief to Bethulie's immediate sewer challenges, restoring functionality to critical pump stations and mitigating environmental risks. However, it must be acknowledged that these interventions represent only a partial solution. The broader sewer infrastructure in Bethulie remains under significant strain, and the current system is not adequately equipped to meet the growing demands of the community.

To ensure long-term sustainability and resilience, the municipality must prioritize a comprehensive upgrade of the entire sewer network. This will require substantial financial investment and strategic planning to deliver infrastructure that can accommodate both current needs and future growth. The municipality remains committed to securing the necessary resources