



MEDIA STATEMENT

Department working around the clock to always protect the country's water resources

10 June 2019

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) wants to assure water consumers that it will not stand idle and do nothing while the country's water resources are being deliberately polluted.

As is always the case, DWS is hands on to pursue the perpetrators of water pollution and ensure that they not only comply with the prescripts of the National Water Act (NWA) as amended, but are also brought to book in the case of further non-compliance.

DWS is presently pursuing two pollution-related cases, one in the Northern Cape (NC) and the other in Mpumalanga provinces.

In the NC a long-standing case of water pollution in Barkley West is under the radar of the Department. A directive was issued on the 16th October 2018 instructing Ms Itumeleng Levonia, in her capacity as the Acting Municipal Manager of Dikgatlong Local Municipality, in terms of Section 53 (1) of the NWA to do the following:

1. Stop controlled discharge of untreated effluent.
2. Provide the department with an action plan on how the municipality is going to address issues relating to the discharge of the untreated effluent.
3. Appoint an independent environmental consultant to compile and submit a rehabilitation plan for the departmental approval, for the areas affected by the continuous spillage of raw sewer.
4. Implement all recommendations contained in the rehabilitation plan and rehabilitate the areas affected by sewer spillage.

Should Dikgatlong Municipality fail to comply with the issued directive the Department of Water and Sanitation may take the necessary actions in terms of Section 53(2) of the NWA.

In Mpumalanga, DWS Provincial Head, Mr Fikile Guma ordered the officials of the Department Messrs. Solly Mkhabela and Rodney Lerutla to conduct a site visit on the Klein Olifants which has allegedly been turned into a biological hazard. The site investigation was undertaken on 05 June 2019 to ascertain the situation on-site since there were no records of this incident within the Directorate. This task team reported back to Mr Guma on 6 June 2019.

The Departmental team did find that there was enough evidence of pollution and concluded that there were overflows in the system. Some of the industries contributing towards this pollution were identified during the investigation and DWS is to take appropriate actions once the culprits have been clearly identified.

Furthermore, DWS believes that administrative action may also be taken against the municipality, i.e. Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, if it is found to have connected or





water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



authorised connection of the industrial effluent without taking necessary measures to ensure that pollution to water resources did not take place.

End

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

For more information contact Sputnik Ratau, Spokesperson for the Department of Water and Sanitation on 082 874 2942

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



Department of Water and Sanitation South Africa



DWS_RSA