

Council unaware of moratorium

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NEWS EDITOR

THE SOL PLAATJIE Municipality has received no notification from the Department of Water Affairs that a moratorium has been placed on new developments in Kimberley until the Homevale waste water treatment plant has been brought up to scratch.

Spokesperson for the Northern Cape interdepartmental committee dealing with the Homevale waste water treatment plant upgrading, Les Abrahams, said last week that the municipality had been issued with a predirective to bring the plant up to standard in terms of a six-leg plan of action.

"The plan of action included implementing emergency repairs and refurbishment to the plant, as well as a longer term plan to bring the plant up to a capacity where it could process the projected increased sewage inflow. A moratorium was also placed on any new development which will aggravate the already critical position of the city's waste water treatment plants, until the position improves," Abra-

hams said last week.

He added that if the municipality did not react to the predirective, the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, as the regulator, could charge the municipal manager in terms of the National Water Act.

The Sol Plaatjie Municipality, however, said yesterday that they had not received anything in writing from the MEC regarding the moratorium.

"Until we have received something we cannot commit ourselves to any comments on the matter," municipal spokesperson, Peet van der Walt said yesterday.

He added that once the municipality received such a document "the contents thereof will first have to be brought to the attention of the council".

Van der Walt confirmed that major maintenance was taking place at the Homevale Disposal Works.

"The sewerage works will run efficiently at approximately eight months from now."

He pointed out that the municipality was also awaiting a report from the consultant regarding the Environmental Impact Assessment on further upgrading of the plant.



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Picture: Lianne Butler

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MICHELLE CAMILL

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LUCKY CHONGA
STAFF INTERN

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