



The **Carletonville Herald** reported on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May, 2022 as follows:



## Merafong pollutes river

All the sewage from around Fochville currently streams into the Loopsuit near Kokosi.

May 5, 2022

Adele Louw



Thousands of litres of sewage flow from a maintenance hole between Kokosi and the Merafong City Local Municipality's sewerage works.

According to AfriForum's Fochville branch chairperson, Jaco van der Merwe, sewage has been leaking from

these holes on the same pipeline for years. The pipeline channels the sewage from Fochville, Greenspark and Kokosi to the municipal works. However, because the sewage works are not functioning, the waste water streams out of the sewer holes.

“The last time I was here towards the end of last year, sewage leaked from another maintenance hole closer to the sewage works,” he says.

As the blockage of the main sewer line worsens, it pushes the leaks back to the maintenance holes closer to Fochville or, in effect, closer to the town.

He says members of his organisation and farmers from the area have asked the municipality numerous times to attend to the problem. So far, it has done nothing.

Currently, so much sewage flows from the industrial-sized sewer hole that one can hear the roar from one side of Kokosi.

The force of the flow has pushed the heavy concrete cover aside. It is now lying in a river of sewage close by. All the sewage flows towards the Loopspruit.

The sewage in this river gushes towards the Klipdrift Dam near Potchefstroom.

“All the fish are going to die. We are worried because our cattle have nowhere else to drink,” complains a Kokosi resident and livestock owner, Mr Tom Tekiso.

Tekiso added that many sewage leaks in Kokosi are linked to the same problem. Instead of sorting it out, the municipality has dug a ditch to divert the sewage from these leaks, also towards the Loop-spruit.

The sewage has washed away the original road to the sewage works.

The magnitude of the problem is so great that one can even see the leaks on Google Earth images.

On Tuesday, the Herald asked the municipality what it planned to do about this massive problem and when it would be addressed.

“The problem is caused by the construction of the Kokosi plant. It will be resolved within a month. A project is underway to connect the new outfall sewer to the Kokosi waste water treatment plant. We continuously test and monitor the downstream water,” says the municipal spokesperson.

The **Mail and Guardian** reported on the 21<sup>st</sup> of January 2023 as follows:

## **Khutsong residents ‘living in a danger zone’ amid sinkholes and sewage**

*By Sheree Bega*



Foul-up: Sinkholes swallow roads in Khutsong. Photos: Delwyn Verasamy

A look of pain passes over Mamokete Malebo's face as she stares out the window of her empty bedroom. Her home in Khutsong, on Gauteng's Far West Rand, is teetering on the edge of a sinkhole.

She tearfully recalls how the sinkhole formed during heavy rains in November 2021. "The house started shaking. It was very scary; my outside toilet and my neighbour's toilet came tumbling down."

Malebo had to leave her home and sleep with relatives because her house, which is riddled with large cracks, is in danger of collapsing.

"It's not safe for us here," she says.

Khutsong is underlain by dolomite and has long been ridden with sinkholes that have destroyed homes, roads and affected nearby schools.

Jerry Ramokgoatedi, a founder of the Khutsong Dolomite Risks and Vulnerability Community Support Group, says pervasive sewage pollution by the Merafong City local municipality has worsened the crisis. Blocked, leaking and cracked pipes have allowed sewage to flow into the dolomitic bedrock, creating more sinkholes.

"Here, we are living with sinkholes and sewer spillages. With most of the sinkholes that occur you will see a sewage pipe, meaning that it was leaking underground. That's why we say it's poor maintenance."

Ramokgoatedi points to sewage pouring from a blocked manhole into a sinkhole. "That sinkhole is caused by that leaking overflowing sewage and it's been like this for years," he says, adding that the sewage spills also make bigger sinkholes. "It's a disaster and we are not safe here."

Jacobeth Mngomezulu says she has to clean the sewage that floods her yard daily and forces her neighbours to move away.

“We don’t even open the windows [and] when it’s raining, I’m standing by the curtains, because I’m so scared we will all be swallowed by this sinkhole. Any day, we can die,” she says. “The RDP houses where they move people affected by sinkholes won’t be big enough for all my furniture or my family to live. I won’t go.”

In a letter to President Cyril Ramaphosa earlier this month, the group said the government and key stakeholders were ignoring the plight of Khutsong residents.

“The displayed attitude is no casualties, no response,” they said. “These sinkholes are not fenced or protected to prevent any possible loss of life or personal injuries of the public.”

Sewer spillages occur daily, and date back seven years, according to the letter. “The constant flow of human faeces into our residential area is our reality and no one cares. These unattended sewer spillages are exacerbating the occurrences of sinkholes, which occurred more than five years ago without being rehabilitated [and] attended.”

As he navigated pools of sewage on the streets and in yards, Klaas Rabele, also a member of the community support group, says human lives are being deliberately endangered. “When you’re living in a dolomitic area, no water ponding is allowed but you can see this sewage all over ... These sinkholes spread like cancer.”



Photos:

Delwyn Verasamy

Since 2019, a series of large sinkholes have gouged the road where Makgau Motlhabane lives. “They are just getting bigger and nothing is being done. The government has failed us and we won’t vote next year. What is the use? We are living in the danger zone and are tired of empty promises,” Motlhabane says.

Mariette Liefferink, the chief executive of the Federation for a Sustainable Environment, explained how, in the 1960s, the apartheid government authorised the dewatering of the gold-bearing reefs of the Far West Rand, which underlie dolomite, which led to the acceleration of sinkholes and subsidence depressions.

“Dolomite can form natural sinkholes, especially if there is ponding of water or if there is a broken pipe. This water causes the dissolution of dolomite. And so these constant sewage spillages and the dysfunctional wastewater treatment works have now resulted in these massive sinkholes in Khutsong,” she said.

In a letter to Liefferink in November, Sean Phillips, the director general of the department of water and sanitation, said the department was aware of the contraventions caused by malfunctioning sewer infrastructure operated by the Merafong City local municipality (MCLM).

“As a result of intensive monitoring of the four wastewater treatment works in Merafong, namely, Kokosi, Khutsong, Wedela and Welverdiend, the department initiated administrative enforcement actions against MCLM due to persistent non-compliance through issuing notices of intention to issue directives in terms of ... the National Water Act [NWA]. This action was to compel MCLM to take rectification measures to curb pollution of water resources in the Wonderfonteinspruit catchment.”

He said follow-up inspections were done to establish compliance. “Evidence collected during the site inspections shows that MCLM continued to contravene provisions of the NWA and is failing to comply with the notices. Subsequently, directives were issued to all four wastewater treatment works.”

The MCLM submitted a representation to the department, but this was rejected because of the “inadequacy of the interventions”. An amended representation on 7 September last year was received, which the department is monitoring. Financial support has been given to the municipality to upgrade and refurbish sewer infrastructure.



Photo: Delwyn Verasamy

A 2020 report by the Merafong City local municipality says ageing infrastructure leads to sporadic pipe bursts, water leakages and losses that are costly to the municipality and “activates new sinkholes”.

It says that since 2016 new sinkholes formed at several sites in old Khutsong, which damaged internal water supply pipes to Khutsong extensions and sewer pipe networks that drain through outfall sewers to the Khutsong wastewater treatment plant. Their formation damaged water pipes, sewer pipes, infrastructure and property, according to the report. “This deteriorating situation places immense pressure on scarce resources to

manage the risk, places lives and property in danger and negatively impacts on the social fabric and wellbeing of the community.”

The report says the critical situation has “become evident due to the collapsing of infrastructure because of dolomite activities and the severe health risk to residents caused by sewer flooding of residential areas and unacceptable levels of basic services, including water provision”.

#### **Merafong municipality respond**

Bridgette Mkhontwana, the acting communication manager for the Merafong City local municipality , said structural defects of houses, caused by ground instability related to sinkhole formation, regularly occurs.

The municipality has a responsibility under the National Buildings Regulations and Building Standards Act to ensure that people are safe from damaged and unstable structures.

“If the municipality therefore suspects that any of the above situations are applicable, the owner of the property is informed in writing of the same.” There is no obligation on the municipality to replace or to repair damaged houses unless the municipality was negligent and failed to discharge its duty towards the claimants.

Affected families are allocated RDP houses. “As the majority of formal houses in Khutsong are not covered by super structure insurance, therefore the provisions ... of the National Housing Code be applied and that the equivalent of RDP housing be provided, irrespective of the size of the former house declared unsafe for occupation.”

The municipality has established the dolomite risk management committee, which is responsible for monitoring sinkhole-related matters.

Since the amalgamation of Khutsong in 1994, there was a culture of non-payment for municipal services and “in recent years, less than 5% of residents in Khutsong pay for their services.

“The non-payment ... places a tremendous burden on the local authority to fit the bill for both Eskom and Rand Water ... with the direct result that there was just no budget to do maintenance on municipal infrastructure, let alone filling vacant positions etc. This has led to a situation where Merafong City is listed as one of the 10 municipalities that need financial and administrative rescue.”

The municipality has sought assistance from the West Rand District Municipality, provincial disaster management centre and Gauteng department of human settlements, “from which our municipality hardly received any concrete assistance since 2002, until 2019, where the matter was once again escalated to the office of the president and national department of human settlement.

“It is only recently that a war room for the Khutsong intervention programme was established and funding [started] being prioritised for the Khutsong resettlement plan.”

Khutsong was established in 1958 on dolomite land before geological scrutiny was obligatory to ensure safe and acceptable development risks for towns, she said.

# RESPONSES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION

In response to the FSE’s complaints to Dr Sean Phillips, the Director General of the Department of Water Affairs, Dr Phillips reported as follows on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November, 2022 and the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June, 2023 respectively:

## REPORT ON ONGOING SEWAGE POLLUTION - WONDERFONTEINSPRUIT

I refer to your email submitted to the Department of Water and Sanitation (the Department) with the aforementioned subject matter.

1. The Department is aware of the contraventions caused by malfunctioning sewer infrastructure operated by Merafong City Local Municipality (MCLM). The Department has been monitoring performance of the Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTWs) through audit inspections and reactive investigations.
2. As a result of intensive monitoring of the four WWTWs in Merafong namely, Kokosi, Khutsong, Wedela and Welverdiend, the Department initiated administrative enforcement actions against MCLM due to persistent non-compliances through issuing notices of intention to issue directives in terms of section 19 (3) and 53 (1) of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) (NWA). This action was to compel MCLM to take rectification measures to curb pollution of water resources in the Wonderfontein spruit catchment.
3. Follow-up inspections were conducted at these sites to establish compliance to the requirements of the notices issued. Evidence collected during the site inspections shows that MCLM continued to contravene provisions of the NWA and is failing to comply with the notices issued. Subsequently, directives were issued to all the four WWTWs.
4. MCLM then submitted a representation to the Department which was rejected due to inadequacy of the interventions. An amended representation, dated 07 September 2022 was received by the Department. The Department is monitoring implementation thereof.
5. The monitoring of the Action Plan has revealed that performance of Welverdiend WWTW has improved.

6. In addition, the Department through the Water Services Infrastructure Grant (WSIG) has also provided financial support to the municipality for the following upgrades and refurbishment of sewer infrastructure:

WWTW	Amount	Financial Year	Scheme
Kokosi	R19,190 m	2021/22	MIG
Khutsong	R19,712 m	2018/19	MIG
Wedela	R15 m	2020/21 Phase 1	WSIG
Wedela	R25 m	2022/23 Phase 2	WSIG

7. The Municipality was also advised to acquire additional funding from other sources for Kokosi and Khutsong WWTWs.

Report, dated 22<sup>nd</sup> of November, 2022.

6. As a result of intensive monitoring of the four WWTWs namely: Kokosi, Khutsong, Wedela and Welverdiend, the Department initiated administrative enforcement actions against the Merafong City LM due to persistent non-compliances through issuing notices of intention to issue directives in terms of Sections 19 (3) and 53 (1) of the National Water Act, 1998. This action was to compel the Merafong City LM to take rectification measures to curb pollution of water resources in the Wonderfonteinspruit catchment. The Department has opened a criminal case against the Merafong LM, and the criminal case is ongoing.
7. Follow-up inspections were conducted at these sites to establish compliance to the requirements of the notices issued. Evidence collected during the site inspections shows that the Merafong City LM continued to contravene provisions of the NWA and is failing to comply with the notices issued. Subsequently, directives were issued to all four (4) of the above mentioned WWTWs.
8. The Merafong City LM then submitted a representation to the Department which was rejected due to inadequacy of the interventions. An amended representation dated 07 September 2022 was received by the Department. The Department is monitoring the implementation thereof.
9. The monitoring of the Action Plan has revealed that the performance of the Welverdiend WWTW has improved.
10. In addition, the Department through the Water Services Infrastructure Grant (WSIG) has also provided financial support to the municipality for the following upgrades and refurbishment of sewer infrastructure:

WWTW	Amount	Financial Year	Scheme
Kokosi	R19,190 m	2021/22	MIG
Khutsong	R19,712 m	2018/19	MIG
Wedela	R15 m	2020/21 Phase 1	WSIG
Wedela	R25 m	2022/23 Phase 2	WSIG

11. The Municipality was also advised to acquire additional funding through other funding models for the Kokosi and Khutsong WWTWs.

Report, dated 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2023

The recent water quality results of City Local Municipality's Waste Water Treatment Works adduce scientific evidence of ongoing sewage pollution. Please see e.g. the subjoined water quality results from the Kokosi Waste Water Treatment Works for the period March 2024 to May 2024.



Period: Mar24 - Mag24																			
SAMPLE POINT	Month	pH	Limit	Electrical conductivity (mS/m)	Limit	Suspended Solids (mg/l)	Limit	Nitrite and Nitrate as N (mg/l)	Limit	Ortho-phosphate as P (mg/l)	Limit	Chemical Oxygen Demand (mg/l)	Limit	Free and Saline Ammonia as N (mg/l)	Limit	Faecal coliform (count/100ml)	Limit	TOTAL COMPLIANCE	
KOKOSI FINAL EFFLUENT	Mar-24	7,82	5,5-9,0	51,5	75	6,8	25	6,09	15	1,01	<1	18	75	1,29	10	<1	130		
	Apr-24	7,29	5,5-9,0	56,9	75	6,4	25	22,6	15	5,22	<1	22	75	<0,2	10	>1000	130		
	#####	7,26	5,5-9,0	68,8	75	2,4	25	23	15	7,51	<1	21	75	1,56	10	>1000	130		
<b>% Compliance per determinand</b>		<b>100%</b>		<b>100%</b>		<b>100%</b>		<b>33%</b>		<b>0%</b>		<b>100%</b>		<b>100%</b>		<b>33%</b>		<b>71%</b>	
Comments for non-compliance	Mar-24	W/WTW commissioned 21 November 2023, recycle needs to be optimised.																	
Comments for non-compliance	Apr-24	W/WTW commissioned 21 November 2023, recycle needs to be optimised.																	
Comments for non-compliance	#####	W/WTW commissioned 21 November 2023, recycle needs to be optimised. Some equipment failure during retention period.																	
KOKOSI UPSTREAM	Mar-24	8,08	5,5-9,0	96,9	75	6,4	25	0,17	15	0,89	<1	<10	75	0,22	10	>2420	0		
	Apr-24	7,2	5,5-9,0	98,2	75	5,6	25	1,67	15	0,5	<1	14	75	2,84	10	>2420	0		
	#####	7,5	5,5-9,0	104	75	2	25	0,96	15	0,63	<1	15	75	4,45	10	>2420	0		
<b>% Compliance per determinand</b>																			
Comments for non-compliance	Mar-24	Faecal coliform in upstream sample indicates faecal contamination from residential area.																	
Comments for non-compliance	Apr-24	Faecal coliform in upstream sample indicates faecal contamination from residential area.																	
Comments for non-compliance	#####	Faecal coliform in upstream sample indicates faecal contamination from residential area.																	
KOKOSI DOWNSTREAM	Mar-24	8,12	5,5-9,0	89	75	4,8	25	0,81	15	1,1	<1	<10	75	0,37	10	>2424	0		
	Apr-24	7,18	5,5-9,0	92,5	75	4	25	0,94	15	0,59	<1	16	75	3,95	10	>2420	0		
	#####	7,44	5,5-9,0	101	75	5,6	25	<0,1	15	1,12	<1	21	75	8,23	10	>2420	0		
<b>% Compliance per determinand</b>																			
Comments for non-compliance	Mar-24	No reduction noticed in faecal coliform.																	
Comments for non-compliance	Apr-24	No reduction noticed in faecal coliform.																	
Comments for non-compliance	#####	No reduction noticed in faecal coliform.																	

Minutes from the Wonderfonteinspruit Catchment Management Forum meetings furthermore adduce documentary evidence of ongoing sewage pollution.

To exemplify:

### Minutes of 5 March 2024

#### 8.2 Local Government/Mining Pollution incidents

JN reported pollution incidents that occurred from December 2023 to February 2024, highlighting that some of the pollution incidents were ongoing while some were new. The incidents were reported as follows:

#### DECEMBER 2023 to FEBRUARY 2024

No	Name of Activity	Date of Incident	Nature of incident	Action Taken
1.	Merafong City Local Municipality-Wedela WWTW	Ongoing	WWTW vandalized	A Directive issued and a Criminal Case was opened. Currently, there are contractors on site for refurbishment.

### Minutes of 29 August 2023

## 8.2 Local Government/Mining Pollution incidents

XB stated that she would be reporting pollution incidents from June 2023 to August 2023 which some were ongoing while others were new. The incidents were reported as follows:

No	Name of Activity	Date of Incident	Nature of incident	Action Taken
1.	Merafong City Local Municipality- Wedela WWTW	Ongoing	WWTW vandalized	A Directive issued and Criminal Case opened. Currently <u>there</u> contractors on site for refurbishment.

No	Name of Activity	Date of Incident	Nature of incident	Action Taken
6.	Merafong City Local Municipality- Khutsong WWTW and extension 3 reticulation	Ongoing	WWTW vandalised and the sewer pipeline damaged by sinkholes	A Directive issued and Criminal Case opened
12.	Welverdiend WWTWs	Ongoing	Plant Vandalised and not operational.	Criminal Case opened

## SITE VISIT ON THE 24<sup>TH</sup> OF APRIL, 2024

Physical (real) evidence was adduced of ongoing sewage pollution and sinkhole and doline formations within Merafong City Local Municipality during a site visit, facilitated by the FSE, with Dr Sean Phillips, Ms Anet Muir, the Chief Director of the DWS Directorate: Compliance and Enforcement and DWS officials, the US Embassy and US Aid and others, on the 24th of April 2024,



Mr Jeremiah Ramokgoatedi, Ms Anet Muir, Prof Richard Meissner, Mr Dennis Jane and others at an open manhole in Khutsong. (Photo: Prof. Anja du Plessis)

## IMPACT ON THE VAAL RIVER

The sewage pollution emanating from the dysfunctional Waste Water Treatment Works of the Merafong City Local Municipality impacts adversely on the significantly polluted Vaal River.

The SAHRC's Final Report of the Gauteng Provincial Inquiry into the Sewage Problem of the Vaal River, dated 17 February 2021 has relevance in this regard.

Pursuant to the Report by the SAHRC, the Minister of Water and Sanitation invoked Section 63 of the Water Services Act to take over water and sanitation services from Emfuleni Local Municipality. On the 5th March 2021, and revised on the 6th July 2021, Rand Water was appointed as the implementing agent<sup>1</sup>.

Notwithstanding the interventions, the latest water quality results, supplied by Rand Water to the Rietspruit CMF, adduce evidence of significant ongoing sewage pollution of the Vaal, with E-coli counts exceeding 8 million counts per 100 ml.

---

<sup>1</sup> EMFULENI SECTION 63 PROGRESS REPORT. NCOP REPORT. 12 September 2023.



Sample Points	Sample Point Description	Quarter	Aluminum	Ammonium (NH <sub>4</sub> as N)	COD	Chloride	Conductivity	Daphnia Toxicity	Dissolved Oxygen	E.coli	Fluoride	Iron	Magnesium	Manganese	Nitrate (NO <sub>3</sub> as N)	pH	Phosphate (PO <sub>4</sub> as P)	Sodium	Sulphate	Suspended Solids	
LPO	Leeuspruit @ Potchefstroom Road 26° 36.871'S 27° 46.210'E	1	0.14	0.17	12	133	130		12.5		1.10	0.20	59	0.15	1.15	8.0	0.14	79	340	25	
		2	0.14	0.12	22	170	135		13.0		1.40	0.08	55	0.21	0.50	8.2	0.10	130	280	83	
		3																			
		4	0.10	0.14	24	90	101		12.0		0.96	0.07	41	0.03	0.60	7.9	0.11	64	215	25	
LWA	Leeuspruit @ Westonaria 26° 25.362'S 27° 40.661'E	1	0.13	0.17	17	66	155		12.5		1.20	0.20	55	0.24	5.50	7.5	0.10	78	615	25	
		2	0.12	0.15	14	51	132		5.2		1.59	0.07	45	1.40	0.73	7.3	0.10	64	450	29	
		3	0.16	4.51	29	158	293		11.7		3.37	0.04	50	2.61	11.83	7.0	0.10	142	1,047	25	
		4	0.21	0.42	12	177	312		11.0		3.47	0.04	450	29.59	2.20	6.9	0.10	919	1,130	25	
REN	Rietspruit above Emmerdale 26° 22.068'S 27° 44.334'E	1	0.11	0.32	14	22	169		10.7		0.97	0.03	44	0.03	1.20	7.5	0.11	36	438	25	
		2	0.10	0.67	12	21	103		10.1		0.83	0.34	34	0.10	0.57	7.8	0.13	30	302	25	
		3	0.12	0.88	24	22	102		10.2		1.07	0.03	45	0.05	1.43	7.8	0.10	36	480	25	
		4	0.10	0.10	10	19	56		9.6		0.98	0.03	43	0.07	0.86	7.8	0.10	33	408	25	
RV1	Rietspruit @ Sebokeng 26° 32.767'S 27° 49.603'E	1	0.05	23.33	153	42	58		10.7	4,386,533	0.39	0.39	14	0.30	0.50	7.3	1.77	44	45	128	
		2	0.05	18.26	90	35	62		8.6	8,467,167	0.50	0.38	17	0.34	0.75	7.4	1.44	36	98	93	
		3	0.08	20.63	54	37	57		11.2	7,099,190	0.50	0.24	18	0.21	0.70	7.3	1.39	34	91	71	
		4	0.05	19.27	64	33	54		9.7	3,569,090	0.37	0.25	13	0.22	0.58	7.4	1.26	36	31	59	
RV2	Rietspruit Weir @ Lech Vaal 26° 43.719'S 27° 43.077'E	1	0.06	10.23	45	46	70	100	10.8	390,054	0.64	0.39	21	0.43	1.29	7.4	1.22	50	111	27	
		2	0.06	12.93	46	47	68	100	10.0	457,651	0.71	0.32	21	0.70	0.51	7.5	1.36	63	132	27	
		3	0.06	10.82	40	44	64	100	10.9	373,203	0.66	0.22	22	0.18	0.51	7.4	1.24	50	93	29	
		4	0.05	9.75	32	43	63	100	11.4	148,368	0.61	0.23	17	0.16	0.63	7.4	1.03	46	83	26	
RV3	Rietspruit @ Westonaria 26° 32.627'S 27° 48.402'E	1	0.11	0.28	11	23	83		11.7		0.82	0.22	36	0.11	2.27	8.0	0.28	41	303	25	
		2	0.10	1.42	22	26	76		11.9		0.86	0.21	35	0.27	1.53	7.7	0.21	38	305	134	
		3	0.08	3.78	23	31	76		12.0		0.81	0.13	29	0.15	1.44	7.9	0.41	38	276	50	
		4	0.08	0.30	25	26	76		11.0		0.79	0.05	33	0.06	1.72	7.7	0.13	38	253	35	

Of relevance too is the SAHRC’s Report of the Gauteng Provincial Inquiry into the Sewage Pollution of the City of Tshwane’s Rivers and the Roodeplaat Dam, dated 26 October 2021.

The SAHRC reported that:

- “Failing WWTWs is a problem nationwide rendering rights vulnerable.
- “The situation regarding WWTWs and pollution of South Africa’s water resources are dire and widespread.
- “It would appear that given the breadth of the challenges, and its impacts on large number of people, the situation could lend itself to being declared a disaster within the definition of the DMA.
- “Not only is there ongoing and increasing threat to people, but also to the environment, fauna, flora, tourism; productivity, both subsistence and commercial; and businesses linked to these water resources.
- “The situation cannot be managed by small pockets of affected community members throughout the country.
- “Efforts by DWS to hold municipalities ...to account using the NWA, have not yielded success and effective measures to prevent pollution have not been adequately taken for a period of time to the detriment of the public.
- “The Commission therefore recommends that the situation regarding failing WWTWs in South Africa and its consequent pollution of South Africa’s water resources be declared a national disaster, in accordance with the DMA”.

## CONCLUSION

The FSE calls upon the NCOP to intervene in the affairs of Merafong City Local Municipality to ensure that strong regulatory-, civil and criminal actions be taken against Merafong City

Local Municipality and its delinquent officials for the ongoing violations of Section 24; Section 27 and Section 11 of the Bill of Rights, Section 19 of the National Water Act, 36 of 1998 and Section 28 of the National Environmental Management Act, 107 of 1998.

SUBMITTED BY:

Mariette Liefferink.

CEO: FEDERATION FOR A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT.

13 October 2024.