

FLAMINGOS UNDER FIRE

Millions were pumped into dam, says Sol

PAISY BEANGSIROM
NEWS EDITOR

THE SOL Plaaitje Municipality has denied that it is doing nothing about the Homevale Waste Water Treatment Plant, believed to be pumping sewage water into Kamfers Dam or the water rising water level, which is threatening to submerge the flamingo breeding island on the dam.

Municipal spokesperson, Sello Matsie, said R7 million had recently been spent on emergency repairs at the treatment plant, including the replacement of a pipe from Homevale, which had corroded as a result of the methane gas.

"A further R22 million is also being spent on electrical and civil refurbishment at the plant."

According to Matsie, the work already undertaken by the municipality has dramatically reduced the E. coli level of the treated waste wa-

ter. However, more needs to be done in order to meet the requirements stipulated by the Department of Water and Environmental Affairs.

"This includes work on the chlorination system, which is currently being undertaken."

He estimated that it would take roughly two to three months to complete the process.

The Department of Water Affairs issued a pre-directive to the municipality almost a year ago, ordering immediate emergency repairs and refurbishment to the plant as well as the chlorination section.

The municipality was also ordered to implement a longer term plan to bring the plant up to a capacity where it could process the projected increased sewage inflow and placed a moratorium on any new development which would further aggravate the already critical position of the city's waste water treatment plant.



FLOODED: Concern has been raised regarding the rising water level at Kamfers Dam which is threatening to flood the flamingo island and the surrounding railway lines.

Picture: Lianne Buñier

He could not say how long it would take before the process was finalised.

The high water levels at Kamfers Dam is directly related to the capacity of the Homevale Sewerage Plant, which feeds recycled water into the dam.

Another option that is also being looked at is to extend the Gogga Pump Station in Galeshewe into a

fully-fledged sewerage plant to assist with Homevale's capacity.

"We are aware of the problems at the Homevale Waste Water Plant as well as at Kamfers Dam and have received complaints from NGOs, while some of these issues were also raised by the Department of Water and Environment Affairs. However, we are doing our best to meet these challenges."

Regarding the high water level of Kamfers Dam, which is at one of its highest levels ever, Matsie said an application had been made to route water to either De Beers' Benfontein Farm or Piet Els' farm, near Riverton.

"An objection was made to the application and this needed to be taken to arbitration, where the merits of the objection could be looked at."