

No more houses for city

PAISY BEANSTRONG
NEWS EDITOR

ALTERNATE and future housing densification projects in Kimberley have been placed on hold until the existing bulk infrastructure services have been upgraded. Densification includes town house development projects and flats, as well as some subdivisions.

The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry placed a moratorium in December last year already on all new developments until the municipality complied with certain requirements relating to the Homevale Wastewater Treatment Works.

At a meeting of the Sol Plaatje City Council yesterday it was pointed out that the municipality's water and sanitation bulk infrastructure was in dire straits and needed upgrading urgently.

The municipality is serviced by three treatment plants, Homevale, Beaconsfield and Riverton oxidation ponds.

Both the Beaconsfield and Homevale Plants are operating way beyond their original design capacities.

The municipality is currently working on a short-term plan

which will improve the efficiency of the existing plant by refurbishing Homevale to operate at its design capacity of 30 ML/day and also to improve the hydraulic capacity to accommodate the additional three ML/day which is experienced during peak periods. This contract is currently under way and is being funded using MIG funding.

Recently, however, the municipality has suffered a setback due to the failure of the Secondary Sedimentation Tank.

According to the municipality, corrective action is being taken.

The total required for the short-term intervention is R310 million.

In the long term it is hoped to upgrade the existing works from 33 ML/day to 50 ML/day

The estimated cost for the upgrading including professional fees is R200 million.

It is estimated that in the next 15 years there will be a need to increase the treatment capacity by a further 10 ML/day.

Funding for the long-term projects has not yet been secured.

It was stated at yesterday's council meeting that the current situation at Homevale posed a serious threat to the future expansion and economic development of Kimberley.

Top municipal directors may be reinstated

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TWO of the municipality's most senior staff members, directors Khuzo Bogacwi and Nomonde Kestiamang, who were suspended two weeks ago, are believed to have been reinstated.

At a meeting of the Sol Plaatje City Council yesterday morning, a motion of exigency to reinstate the two directors was brought by ANC councillor Mateseke.

The debate, however, was clouded in a veil of secrecy when Speaker, Nosi Thole, ordered that the matter be held in camera and that all members of the public, off-