

Article rank | 18 Nov 2011 | DFA | PATSY BEANGSTROM NEWS EDITOR

# Municipality dismisses flamingo claims

THE SOL Plaatje Municipality has dismissed claims by the Save the Flamingo Association that the Homevale Sewerage Works is dysfunctional as grossly exaggerated.

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"It is unfortunate that the matter should be sensationalised," municipal spokesman, Sello Matsie, said yesterday. "We acknowledge the problems that were picked up during a visit to the plant on Tuesday last week (November 8).

"Some of them have been fixed already while others were normal maintenance issues that were being dealt with at the time. Of the components that were not operational, some have since been put back into operation."

The Save the Flamingo Association said in a statement that it was concerning that despite a R80 million upgrade of the treatment works the equipment was not functioning. have worked with other stakeholders to better the situation which existed before at the plant. We will continue to work towards better efficiency of the plant."

The DA has also expressed its concerns with the findings that the flamingo colony at Kamfers Dam was still at risk.

"We will use our opportunity at the next question time session with the Premier, to ask her where the Northern Cape's commitment to protecting our natural heritage is," Gerda Moolman, DA spokeswoman for Environment and Nature Conservation, said yesterday.

Moolman also said that it appeared that that cautions pertaining to poor water quality, high water levels and the presence of algae in Kamfers Dam had fallen on deaf ears of not only Sol Plaatje Municipality, but also provincial government.

"The lesser flamingos of Kamfers Dam are part and parcel of the Northern Cape's natural heritage. Kimberley without its flamingos will be like Kimberley without the Big Hole. Yet, the flamingos continue to be treated like sewerage. This is both shameful and embarrassing, as the international community bestows much more importance on the protection of our wetlands than Northern Cape does."

She added that besides raising the matter in question time, the party would also write letters to the MEC for Environment and Conservation, Sylvia Lucas, as well as the MEC for Tourism, John Block, to urgently intervene in this matter.

"We will further attempt to pass this matter onto our national DA representatives, whom we will request to highlight this at the level of national government," Moolman said.



"We cannot allow an inept government, that is charged with protecting our environment, to directly contribute to its demise. Our flamingos are a cause worth fighting for and we will be damned if government is allowed to continue defiling Kamfers Dam."

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