

13 March 2026

Mr T Panyani
Acting Municipal Manager
Matjhabeng Local Municipality
319 Corner Ryk and Stateway
WELKOM
9459

Dear Mr Sir/Madam,

I write with reference to the correspondence and discussions outlined below regarding the ongoing sewerage blockage at the end of Kommando Avenue where it connects to the main line in Highlands Avenue in Virginia area.

This matter has persisted for more than three (3) years. According to municipal sewerage personnel the recurring blockage is consistently located within the last approximately three metres of the pipe before it joins the main line. Each time the jetting team clears the blockage, large quantities of tree roots are removed. However, municipal workers have indicated that the pipe is likely broken, bent, or collapsed, and that permanent resolution will require excavation and repair of that short section.

Initially, clearing the pipe would keep it functional for at least a month. Currently, the blockage recurs approximately every three days. The situation has deteriorated to the point where sewerage backs up into residential properties, including 88 and 92 Kommando Avenue (Beatrix/Sibanye houses), and causes sewer gases and effluent to enter homes. This poses an immediate and ongoing health risk and creates inhumane living conditions for residents.

We note the municipality's explanation regarding SCM processes, financial constraints under the Financial Recovery Programme, and the interim use of jetting equipment to manage flow. However, despite these efforts, the problem remains unresolved and is escalating.

In light of the above, we formally request that Matjhabeng Local Municipality engage with Beatrix Mine (Sibanye) to assist with the excavation and repair of the affected section of the sewer pipe. It has previously been suggested that this is not an extensive project, as the defective section is limited to a few metres. A collaborative intervention between the municipality and Beatrix Mine could permanently resolve a problem that has affected this neighbourhood for years.

We wish to emphasise that, in terms of Section 152 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, municipalities have the duty to ensure the provision of services in a sustainable manner and to promote a safe and healthy environment. Furthermore, the National Health Act 61 of 2003 and applicable environmental health regulations impose obligations on municipalities to prevent conditions that pose risks to public health, including sewer spillages and sanitation failures.

June 2024

Address: 58 Union Avenue, Kloofsig, Centurion • **Tel.:** 086 10 200 30

Member Affairs – Email: ledesake@afriforum.co.za • **Directors:** Ms A. Bailey, Mr P.J.W. Buys, Dr H.K. Coetzee, Mr P.L. Dekker, Mr F.J.D. de Klerk, Mr G.R. de Vries, Dr D.J. Hermann, Mr W.G. Human, Mr C.M. Kriel and Dr R. Pretorius. • **Company Secretary:** Mr W.A. Vogel.

Registration number: 2005/042861/08 • **NGO number:** 054 - 590

The continued overflow of sewerage and exposure to sewer gases constitute a clear health hazard and a violation of residents' rights to dignity and a safe living environment.

This request has been forwarded to several management positions within Matjhabeng Local Municipality to ensure awareness at the appropriate levels of authority.

We hereby formally request that:

1. A clear plan of action to permanently repair the damaged section of pipe be provided;
2. Confirmation be given whether engagement with Beatrix Mine will take place; and
3. A written response outlining the proposed solution and timeframe be communicated within seven (7) days of receipt of this letter.

Residents have endured this situation for more than three years. We respectfully request urgent intervention and a definitive resolution to restore safe and dignified living conditions.

We trust that the municipality will treat this matter with the urgency it requires and look forward to your prompt written response.

Kind regards

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