



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For oral reply)

QUESTION NO. 1413 { NW1499E }

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 15 of 2023

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Ms H S Winkler (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

Whether her department has had any engagements with the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs and the eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality to resolve the sewage crisis in the municipality; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

1413. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

For a number of years, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) has been responding to complaints relating to the unauthorised discharge of sewage into coastal waters by the eThekweni Municipality. In many of these cases, the DFFE has taken enforcement action by issuing administrative enforcement notices, and in some instances by also instituting criminal proceedings against the municipality with the aim of bringing the municipality into compliance and stopping the pollution.

In addition, and where required, the DFFE supports the provincial DEDTEA in its efforts to bring the eThekweni Municipality into compliance. This is important as DEDTEA and the DFFE have similar mandates regarding the pollution of coastal waters, resulting in the need to engage one another to prevent duplication of efforts and the coordination of actions.

In April 2022 severe flooding occurred within the eThekweni area which critically damaged transport and waste infrastructure, particularly the metropolitan municipality's sewage system. Since the flooding the DFFE has been working with the city and provincial leadership to overcome their challenges in this regard.

As an example, the Environmental Management Inspectors (EMIs) of the DFFE have issued administrative notices against the eThekweni Municipality in respect of sewage discharges at Cuttings Beach, Isipingo Estuary, Glen Ashley, Saratoga Beach and Mahatma Gandhi, and have initiated criminal proceedings for failure to comply with an enforcement notice to address failures at the Mahatma Gandhi pump station, which has led to persistent and severe pollution within Durban Port and have impacted port activities. During all efforts to deal with these pollution incidents, the DFFE consulted with DEDTEA and the municipality.

Furthermore, through court proceedings out of the Durban High Court under case number D11 severe flooding occurred within 938/2022, which relates to the sewage issues within eThekweni, the DFFE is engaging with all parties to these proceedings, including the Department of Water and Sanitation, and the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA). This is with the objective of settling the matter through the agreement of an action plan to be tabled by the eThekweni Municipality. This action plan will detail how eThekweni intends to solve the problem.

In this regard, it should be noted that at a meeting that took place between the parties in the above matter on 29 March 2023, it was confirmed that the eThekweni Municipality received an amount of R1,5 billion from COGTA during March 2023 and that it is embarking on a procurement process to appoint service providers to undertake the necessary remedial/repair work.



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MS B D CREECY, MP
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

DATE: 13/05/2023