



## environment, forestry & fisheries

Department:  
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref: O2/1/5/2

### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 1636 {NW2023E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 28 of 2020

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 24 July 2020

**Mr M G E Hendricks (Al-Jama-ah) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:**

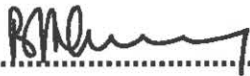
- (1) Whether, with regard to a lack of housing in the Masiphumelele township (details furnished), (a) the Department will investigate the pollution caused by debris and the sewerage dumped in the canals due to a lack of sanitation facilities; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so,
- (2) whether she intends to make a follow-up with the City of Cape Town regarding its failure to improve basic services such as refuse removal as the debris is causing great harm to the environment; if not, why not; and
- (3) whether the Department will repair the damage to the environment and bill the City of Cape Town for damages caused to the environment, especially to the African child, women and elderly; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the further relevant details?

### **1636. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:**

- (1) Despite a number of interventions that have taken place over the years, it is clear that the challenges still persist. Accordingly, the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries will initiate an investigation into this matter, in particular the illegal activities related to dumping of sewage and environmental harm resulting from these activities.

- (2) The Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries liaised with both the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning and the City of Cape Town (CoCT) to investigate the refuse removal services in Masiphumelele township. The City of Cape Town informed the Department that changes to the waste management system in Masiphumelele meant that a new vehicle for "top-up" waste collection is in the process of being procured, and that in the meantime *ad hoc* services are still being provided by the local depot. Please refer any further inquiries in this regard to the City of Cape Town.
- (3) The Department is aware that the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning intervened through administrative enforcement action to ensure that the environment is protected from pollution by issuing a directive linked to this matter. The Department will investigate the progress made in addressing this challenge following this enforcement process and determine whether further action is required.

**Regards**

  
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**MS BD CREECY, MP**

**MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

DATE: 16/8/2020