



**forestry, fisheries
& the environment**

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

Ref: O2/1/5/2

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 1006 {NW1253E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 11 of 2022

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 18 March 2022

Mr C Brink (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

Whether her department intends to take any action to support and/or compel, if necessary, the Gauteng provincial government to seek the resettlement of informal waste sorters currently operating at the corner of Old Johannesburg Road and Wierda Road in Centurion on the banks of Hennops River, who are also polluting this water source (details furnished); if not, why not; if so, (a) what action will be taken and (b) on what date?

1006. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

- a) The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) provides support to prevent and/or control pollution through the Inter-Governmental Relations Framework. Various support mechanisms have been pursued to support waste pickers / collectors, including but not limited to provision of personal protective equipment and Recycling Enterprise Support Programme assistance where the respective waste picker enterprises meet the requirements. This support has been directed at the informal waste pickers / collectors as the role that they play in recycling has been acknowledged as part of pollution prevention and/or control.

This particular case necessitates access to land or space which is within the means that the City of Tshwane can consider as part of support to Local Economic Development. The City of

Tshwane is currently assessing three (3) alternative sites that could serve as a waste storage and sorting facility; including Hennopspark X15 site. The City of Tshwane is working on finalising access to a suitable site and ensuring that it is allocated to the qualifying pickers / collectors.

- b) DFFE has engaged both Gauteng Government (GDARD) and the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in addressing this alleged pollution.
- GDARD's Environmental Management Inspectors (EMIs) conducted a site investigation on 22 March 2022. The preliminary findings include; the invasion of land by a group of undocumented immigrants, unlawful waste sorting and storage activities on the site that is very close to the Hennops river. GDARD is working with the City of Tshwane to address the non-compliances that have been noted.
 - The DWS commits to supporting the City of Tshwane in enforcing their by-laws and where there is outright transgression of the National Water Act, Act no. 36 of 1998, the necessary enforcement actions will be taken by DWS against the land owner.

Regards



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

DATE: 11/4/2022