



## 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. 2374 {NW2711E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 23 of 2023

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

What (a) number of compliance directives has her department issued to the eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality regarding the ongoing sewage spillage in the city of eThekweni and (b) is the next step that her department will pursue over noncompliance by the eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality on directives issued by her department?

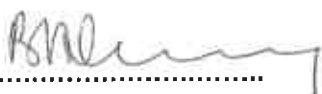
#### **2374. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:**

- (a) From 2020 to 2022 the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) issued the eThekweni Municipality with seven (7) Administrative Notices. In many of these cases, the DFFE achieved compliance through the issuance of these notices in that the unlawful sewage discharge ceased and / or the DFFE received action plans detailing mitigation measures that would be implemented to address the failures of the sewage networks in terms of the impacts they were having on certain areas of the coastal environment.

- (b) In relation to the Mahatma Gandhi pump station and discharge of sewage at Lavender Creek, eThekweni failed to comply with the Coastal Protection Notice which resulted in the DFFE initiating a criminal investigation.

Due to the significance of this pollution particularly entering the Durban Harbour, the DFFE also advised the eThekweni Municipality that it would approach the high court for relief. Whilst preparing to initiate interdict proceedings, ActionSA instituted court proceedings out of the Durban High Court under case number D11938/2022, against the Minister, the eThekweni Municipality and 6 others in respect of the sewage issues within eThekweni municipality.

Through the ActionSA court process, the DFFE engaged with all parties involved with the aim of settling the matter through an agreed action plan. At a meeting which took place on 29 March 2023, between all parties involved, it was confirmed that the eThekweni Municipality received an amount of R1.5 billion from the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) to assist with the work required to repair and maintain the sewage infrastructure. An action plan was filed at the Court by eThekweni Municipality at the end of May 2023 and the plan is currently under review. The eThekweni Municipality is also busy with procurement processes for the appointment of service providers to undertake the necessary remedial / repair work of its sewage reticulation and associated infrastructure.



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

DATE: .....18/6/2023