

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 383 {NW397E}
INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 2 of 2022

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Prof C T Msimang (IFP) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

Whether, following a suspected gas leak from a certain company (name furnished) and its inhalation at a school and homes in the surrounding area of Richards Bay, where children and adults developed nausea, vomiting, difficulties in breathing with many having collapsed and transported to hospitals and clinics in the Richards Bay and Empangeni areas, her department investigated the incident; if not, why not; if so, what (a) are the results of the investigation, (b) was the impact of the gas leak on the environment and (c) is being done to prevent the incident from happening in the future?

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

- (a) The investigation is not finalised and as such there are no results to be made public.
- (b) The impact of the gas leak is still being investigated by the authorities;
- (c) Once the investigation is finalised, the outcome of the investigation will determine how a similar incident can be prevented in the future.

It should be noted that the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) province and the municipality are taking a lead to investigate the alleged incident. The preliminary results show that there was no incident from Foskor. The department is currently assisting the municipality with technical expertise by evaluating the ambient air quality data and the emission reports from the facilities in Richards Bay.

MS B D CREECY, MP

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

DATE: 25 02 2022