



## KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## OFFICE OF THE MEC

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**Speaker: Ms N Boyce**

**KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Legislature**

**241 Langalibalele Street**

**PIETERMARITZBURG**

**3200**

### WRITTEN REPLY

**NO. 171/2021            MR H U DE BOER (DA) TO ASK THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:**

The Province of KwaZulu-Natal is plagued by dilapidated municipal sewerage infrastructure and thereby polluting natural watercourses, streams and rivers. Oversight in the Ladysmith Region indicates that the District Municipality has failed significantly to secure its sewerage infrastructure.

Constant raw sewerage leaks into the Cochraine Spruit (that leads into the Klip River and uThukela River) have had a significant environmental impact. Additionally, tourism is being impacted by the constant stench.

**1. HAS THE EDTEA MADE ANY INTERVENTION TO ISSUE COMPLIANCE NOTICES, FINES OR OPEN CRIMINAL CASES AGAINST THE UTHUKELA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY?**

Officials from the Department together with officials of the Municipality responded to the complaint. During the site inspection, it was discovered that one manhole was overflowing which was found on Francis road behind Christopher Park. The Municipal Manager for UThukela District Municipality was consulted and he indicated that he was not aware of it, however he will ensure that the issue of the raw sewer leak will be resolved within a week from the 11<sup>th</sup> of May 2021. A verbal directive was issued to UThukela District Municipality, instructing the municipality to stop the leakage immediately and to further provide a detailed report on the cause of the leakage and the plans to ensure that such leakages do not occur in future. The verbal directive was

confirmed by a written Directive on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May 2021. As part of cooperative governance, the matter was also referred to the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) as they have a direct mandate over water sources and the operation of waste water treatment facilities. DWS also made a commitment to work with EDTEA to resolve this issue. The pre- directive in terms of NEMA had to be issued to UThukela District Municipality to afford them an opportunity to make their representation to this Department indicating the reasons for the leak of raw sewer into the river. A consultative meeting was also conducted with UThukela District Officials (Mesdames W Ndaba and M Ntshangase) to ensure that they provide EDTEA with a plan which will indicate how UThukela District Municipality will deal with the over-spilling of sewer and deteriorating infrastructure. Failure by the Municipality to provide this plan/ report may result in the Department taking criminal action against UThukela District Municipality. The municipality was given 30 days to compile this report and the situation on site is closely monitored by EDTEA officials, DWS and the Municipality. Attached as Annexure A are the photos of the leaking sewer that was over-spilling from the manhole. UThukela District Municipality's Mr Njoko (Superintendent) made a commitment to fix the manhole which has been repaired.

**1.1 IF NOT, WHY NOT.**

Not applicable.

**2. DOES EDTEA HAS SOLID AND TANGIBLE PLANS TO CRIMINALLY CHARGE THE MUNICIPAL ACCOUNTING OFFICER SHOULD CONTRAVENTION NOTICES NOT YIELD RESULTS?**

EDTEA will follow administrative enforcement processes provided by NEMA to afford an opportunity to the Municipality to make their representation, if all fails, the Department will undertake criminal enforcement.

**2.1 IF NOT, WHY NOT.**

Not applicable.

**3. DOES EDTEA RECOGNISE THAT CONTINUAL FAILING MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE PLACES THE TOURISM INDUSTRY IN DIRE JEOPARDY, AS WELL AS CONTRIBUTES TO A GENERAL LOSS OF AMENITY TO RESIDENTS OF THE LADYSMITH COMMUNITY?**

Yes, EDTEA is aware of the existing municipal infrastructure challenges placing the tourism industry at risk. EDTEA is utilizing the administrative processes (as afforded by the laws of the Republic) to resolve the matter. To ensure that the amenity of the area is kept intact, EDTEA has already conducted three cleanups at Alfred Duma Municipality and will continue to conduct these in line with the resources available. It must, however, be noted that this problem relates to the state of water treatment infrastructure which needs to be addressed adequately and thoroughly. UThukela District Municipality had been instructed to come up with a comprehensive plan that will ensure that over-spilling of manholes does not occur, in future.

**4. ARE THERE CURRENTLY ANY PROVINCIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE POLLUTION CAUSED BY FAULTY MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN LADYSMITH?**

No.

**5. WILL THE HONOURABLE MEC BE REPORTING TO THE CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ON THE LADYSMITH SEWERAGE POLLUTION ISSUES?**

Yes.

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| <b>SUBMITTED BY:</b><br><small>Signed by: Brightboy Nhlakanipho Nkonti<br/>Signed at: 2021-06-05 16:03:36 +02:00<br/>Reason: I approve this document</small><br><br>.....<br><b>MR N NKONTWANA</b><br><b>HEAD OF DEPARTMENT</b><br><b>DATE: 05/06/21.....</b> | <b>APPROVED BY:</b><br><br>.....<br><b>MR R R PILLAY, MPL</b><br><b>MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,</b><br><b>TOURISM &amp; ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS</b><br><b>DATE: 06/06/21.....</b> |
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**ANNEXURE A**

Photos of Raw sewer that is over spilling into Cohrain spruit.





