

06 January 2022

To: All Media/News Editors

Media Statement for immediate release

UVONGO BEACH REMAINS CLOSED TO PUBLIC DESPITE A CONSIDERABLE DECREASE IN TOXICITY LEVELS.

The Uvongo Beach at the Ray Nkonyeni Municipality on the KwaZulu-Natal South Coast will remain closed to the public use until water quality results reflected acceptable readings to allow for the reopening.

The beach was closed on the 30th December after sewer spill contaminated the sea-water as a result of damage to two sewage pump-stations at the Masinenge Low Cost Housing project.

The E.coli toxicity levels remain above the permissible threshold of 500. However, the latest results, especially for the sea and lagoon, are showing a substantial decrease in the water pollution.

Results from the tests conducted on Wednesday 5th January show that the E.coli reading for Uvongo River below the Masinenge impact point was 5700. Uvongo lagoon was showing the reading of 2700 down from 8700 while the sea was at 1000 down from 5900.

A multi departmental team that has been on the ground since the incident occurred has reported that there is no further spillage visible on site and repair work to the pumps is still underway but progressing satisfactorily.

Another water sampling was done today, 6th January and the results will be available tomorrow afternoon.

Ends

Issued by The Department of Economic Development Tourism and Environmental Affairs.