



## 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. 756 {NW949E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 11 of 2024

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 13 September 2024

#### **Ms M P Kobe (ActionSA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:**

Whether his department has taken any steps against the City of Cape Town in terms of environmental legislation for releasing in excess of 30 million litres of raw, untreated sewage into the marine reserves along the Atlantic Seaboard, in contravention of environmental legislation; if not, why have no steps been taken; if so, what steps?

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

The City of Cape Town (COCT) holds coastal waters discharge permits (CWDPs) that authorise it to discharge sewage that has undergone preliminary treatment (in other words, screening to remove solids) from three outfalls, namely Camps Bay, Green Point and Hout Bay, subject to the conditions contained in these permits.

These three permits are all subject to ongoing appeals. However, an interim decision was taken on 28 August 2024, in which the effluent quantity (in other words, flow) limits contained in the CWDPs were suspended pending the outcome of the appeals. This means that, until the appeal has been decided, the COCT is not limited to the daily discharge limits of 11 300 m<sup>3</sup> for Camps Bay, 25 000 m<sup>3</sup> for Green Point and 5 000 m<sup>3</sup> in respect of Hout Bay.

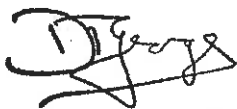
Despite the submission of the appeals, CWDPs remain valid and binding, save for the discharge volumes that have formally been suspended. In February 2024, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) issued compliance notices to the COCT in terms of section 31L of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) for each of these outfalls owing to non-compliance with certain conditions of the three CWDPs.

Since receipt of these compliance notices, the COCT has been working closely with the DFFE to bring these outfalls into compliance, and much progress has been made. In terms of transparency, the DFFE notes that the COCT has been hosting meetings of the Permit Advisory Forum, as required, where members of the public are kept updated and informed of actions being taken by the COCT to ensure that the Green Point, Camps Bay and Hout Bay outfalls are brought into compliance. Grievances and concerns may also be expressed at these meetings.

In respect of the Hout Bay outfall, and in parallel with the administrative enforcement process discussed above, a criminal case was opened against the COCT. The investigation is complete, and the docket was sent to the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA). A decision is awaited as to whether the NPA will prosecute.

**Regards**

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**DR D T GEORGE, MP**

**MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

**DATE: 18/09/2024**