



**EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE**  
**Democratic Alliance Member of the Provincial Legislature**  
The Hon. Retief Odendaal MPL



Provincial Legislature  
Private Bag x0051  
Bhisho, 5605

Cell: 082 462 0668

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DATE: 12 JUNE 2019

**THE GREEN SCORPIONS**

PER EMAIL: [pi@toanon.co.za](mailto:pi@toanon.co.za)

**RE: UNTREATED WASTEWATER FROM THE INXUBA YETHEMBA MUNICIPALITY BEING DISCHARGED INTO THE GREAT FISH RIVER**

The aforementioned matter has reference.

I confirm that over the last number of years the wastewater treatment plant in Cradock (Inxuba Yethemba Municipality, Eastern Cape) has experienced a number of technical problems. As a result there has been a number of instances where untreated wastewater from said plant flowed into the Great Fish River in the past. Upon a routine oversight inspection *in loco* yesterday, I however found the following:

1. The sewerage plant has now completely shut down. There is not a single municipal employee at the plant and the only workers present on site, were two security guards;
2. Wastewater continues to flow into the non-functional plant where after it is channelled, untreated, into the Great Fish River;
3. It is clear that the problems at the plant are mechanical in nature as most of the pumps and all the brush aerators are dysfunctional.

The Chris Hani District Municipality, which is responsible for the treatment of wastewater in the Inxuba Yethemba Municipality, has been experiencing some major financial challenges over the recent past and as such may not be in a position to find the necessary budget in order to fund the much needed repairs to the wastewater treatment plant. This will no doubt lead to the continued unlawful discharge of untreated wastewater directly into the Great Fish River unless we intervene.

The Great Fish River is an economical lifeline to hundreds of thousands of people in the Eastern Cape as this river provides irrigation to some of the most productive agriculture communities in the province. The continued discharge of sewage into this river by an irresponsible local authority could potentially have a disastrous effect on these farming operations, whilst at the same time also posing the normal health and environmental risk normally associated with the unlawful discharge of untreated wastewater into a natural water resource.



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Against this backdrop, but more specifically also the legal requirements in terms of the Constitution, the National Environmental Management Act No. 107 of 1998 and the National Water Act No. 36 of 1998 we require your urgent intervention in this regard.

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

**I remain, yours faithful**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Retief Odendaal", followed by a dotted line.

**RETIEF ODENDAAL MPL**  
**DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE MEMBER OF THE EC PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE**

**DA Constituency Leader: Inxuba Yethemba Municipality**