



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

DA Member: Environment, Forestry & Fisheries

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To The Office of the Green Scorpions,

I am writing to you in my capacity as the Democratic Alliance (DA) Member of Parliament in Pietermaritzburg to request an urgent investigation into alleged toxic air pollution emanating from FFS Refineries.

I conducted an oversight visit to FFS Refineries and engaged with a number of concerned residents who shared their distressing health experiences related to the alleged toxic air pollution emanating from the refinery.

The residents reported a persistent “petrochemical” smell, which they believe to be originating from FFS Refineries. This smell has been affecting multiple residential communities in the area for several years. To substantiate these claims, the DA has received numerous affidavits from community members who have experienced a variety of health issues they attribute to the polluted air, as well as a report which corroborates the residents’ claims that was commissioned by Msunduzi Municipality (attached).

Moreover, the residents expressed their frustration over the lack of transparency from the Msunduzi Municipality on ongoing court proceedings between FFS and Msunduzi Municipality. Despite repeated

requests, residents have witnessed no significant improvement in air quality yet.

Air quality in Pietermaritzburg has been a longstanding concern, and it is imperative that we collectively work towards holding polluting industries accountable for their emissions. The National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act (39 of 2004) clearly outlines the legal standards for air quality in South Africa, and it is crucial that all industries comply with these regulations to protect the health and wellbeing of our communities.

Ignoring these standards not only constitutes a breach of law but also a breach of the trust that our communities place in both industry and government. We strongly believe that the government needs to intensify its enforcement measures, ensuring that repeat offenders are held accountable. In cases where non-compliance is a recurring issue, it is paramount that licenses are reviewed and, if necessary, revoked to safeguard public health.

We hereby request the urgent intervention of the Green Scorpions to investigate these allegations and take necessary actions to address the air quality issues in the affected communities. We are ready and willing to collaborate and provide any necessary documentation and affidavits collected from the residents to assist in your investigation.

We look forward to your prompt response and action on this critical matter, as the health and safety of our communities are at stake.

Yours sincerely,

Hannah Shameema Winkler, MP
Member of Parliament, Midlands Constituency.
Democratic Alliance

