

**KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM
AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
RECEIVED
25 MAR 2024
RECEIVED BY: <i>[Signature]</i>
270 JABU NDLOVU STREET, PIETERMARITZBURG
OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

270 Jabu Ndlovu Street, Pietermaritzburg, 3201
 Tel: +27 (33) 264 2515, Fax: 033 264 2680
 Private Bag X 9152
 Pietermaritzburg, 3200
www.kznedtea.gov.za

DEPARTMENTAL ROUTE FORM			
SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION 20			
AUTHOR		SUPERVISOR	
NAME: DT T ELLENSON		NAME: MR S A DUMA, MPL	
RANK: ACTING HOD: EDTEA		RANK: MEC FOR EDTEA	
TEL NO: 033 246 2515			
MARK ROUTE WITH *	SIGNATURE	DATE	REMARKS
DR. T ELLENSON ACTING HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: EDTEA	<small>Signed by:THANDEKA PRECIOUS ELLE Signed at:2024-03-24 20:20:44 +02:00 Reason:I approve this document</small> <i>TPEll</i>	24/03/24	
MR S.A. DUMA. MPL MEC FOR EDTEA	<i>[Signature]</i>	10/04/2024	

Umnyango Wezokuthuthukiswa koMnotho, Ezokongiwa Kwemvelo nezokuVakasha KwaZulu Natal
DIWETHU 2024 -03- 25
Department of Economic Development Environmental Affairs and Tourism KwaZulu-Natal



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM
AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

OFFICE OF THE MEC

PRIVATE BAG X07, CASCADES, PIETERMARITZBURG, 3202
181 HOSEN HAFFEJEE STREET, PIETERMARITZBURG, 3201
E-MAIL: Nonhlakanipho.Mchunu@kznedtea.gov.za
TEL: +27 (0)33 – 328 8000

Speaker: Ms N Boyce
KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Legislature
241 Langalibalele Street
PIETERMARITZBURG
3200

WRITTEN REPLY

**NO. 20/2024 MR HU DE BOER (DA) TO ASK THE MEC FOR ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:**

The Virginia Bush Nature Reserve (Virginia Bush) – situated in Adelaide Tambo Drive (Wards 36) Durban North is a popular natural area, and part of the DMOSS system. New information suggests developers have made application to develop a portion of this reserve into a high-end “eco estate”.

1. HAS EDTEA OR ANY OF ITS ENTITIES RECEIVED ANY ENQUIRIES, EIA APPLICATIONS OR APPLICATIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF VIRGINIA BUSH?

Yes, EDTEA received a request to intervene on Virginia Bush Nature Reserve’s proposed development due to a disagreement between the local authority and the developers.

2. IF SO, WHAT HAS BEEN THE RESPONSE OF EDTEA TO SUCH QUERIES?

EDTEA did meet with the developers. This meeting was followed by a meeting with the developer, officials from eThekweni Metro and the MEC for EDTEA. The MEC advised the developers and eThekweni to further engage on this matter.

3. HAS ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY CONSULTED WITH EDTEA, KZN ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS OR ANY OTHER ENTITIES REGARDING THE POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF VIRGINIA BUSH?



No consultation was made by eThekwini, however EDTEA is aware that eThekwini Metro and the developer are continuing with engagements accompanied by site visits to find a sustainable solution on this matter.

4. IF SO, WHAT HAS EDTEA'S RESPONSE BEEN?

N/A

5. DOES EDTEA AGREE THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF WHAT IS IN ESSENCE A STRIP OF FOREST IN A PROTECTED AREA GOES AGAINST THE SPIRIT OF CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION, COASTAL FOREST PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENTAL PRACTICES?

EDTEA will provide its comments during the commenting period. It is worthy to note that EDTEA is not intending to interfere with the processes since the activity in question is within the mandate of the local authority.

<p>SUBMITTED BY: Signed by:THANDEKA PRECIOUS ELL Signed at:2024-03-24 20:20:16 +02:00 Reason:I approve this document </p> <p>.....</p> <p>DR THANDEKA ELLENSON ACTING HEAD OF DEPARTMENT DATE: 24/03/24</p>	<p>APPROVED BY: </p> <p>.....</p> <p>MR S DUMA, MPL MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS DATE: 10/04/2024.....</p>
---	---