



**environment, forestry  
& fisheries**

Department:  
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref: O2/1/5/2

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**(For oral reply)**

**QUESTION NO. 369 {NO2380E}**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 31 of 2020**

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**Mr A M Shaik Emam (NFP) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:**

- (1) What were the reasons that her Department never released the report by the University of KwaZulu-Natal of the research conducted a while ago into the high levels of pollution and its impact on the residents living in Merebank, Bluff, Jacobs and Lamontville, and
- (2) Whether she will furnish Mr A M Shaik Emam with the contents of the specified report; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

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

1. It is not clear which research project this Parliamentary Question is referring to and unless the report was specifically commissioned by the Department, it would not be able to release a report that was compiled by an institution not under its direct control, without its explicit permission.

The only research work related to health studies conducted around South Durban Basin, which the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) is aware of, was one commissioned by the eThekweni Municipality under the auspices of the South Durban Multipoint Project titled "Multipoint Plan: Project 4 – Health study and health risk assessment" by Naidoo, et al in 2006. This research was conducted by the University of KwaZulu-Natal for the EThekweni Metropolitan

Municipality. DEFF was a key stakeholder, but not the lead Department which initiated the research.

The Department is now initiating a comprehensive health study in the area with the intention of understanding the health profile of the people within the South Durban Basin. The draft Terms of Reference is being finalised and a service provider will be appointed to conduct the study.

2. DEFF did not commission the report, so it cannot be released by the department as the proprietary rights sit with the University of kwaZulu-Natal in this regard.

**Regards**



**MS BD CREECY, MP**

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

**DATE: 25/08/2020**