

11 February 2026

Mr W. Aucamp
Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Environment House
473 Steve Biko and Soutpansberg Road
Arcadia
PRETORIA
0083

By email: ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
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CC: Ms N. Tshabalala
Director-General
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Environment House
473 Steve Biko and Soutpansberg Road
Arcadia
PRETORIA
0083

By email: ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Dear Mr Aucamp

REQUEST FOR URGENT INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF POLLUTION CASES OPENED BY AFRIFORUM AGAINST MR APRIL NTULI

AfriForum is a non-profit organisation with its main purpose the protection of the constitutional rights of its members and the communities to whom these members belong. We are acting on behalf of our members in Sasolburg, Vaalpark and Vanderbijlpark on whom this issue will have an effect and, in this request specifically, the communities along the Vaal River.

AfriForum hereby formally requests the urgent intervention of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment regarding two additional pollution cases opened by AfriForum during 2024 against Mr April Ntuli in connection with ongoing sewage pollution and non-compliance with the National Water Act and related environmental legislation within the Emfuleni Local Municipality.

June 2024

Address: 58 Union Avenue, Kloofsig, Centurion • **Tel.:** 086 10 200 30
Member Affairs – Email: ledesake@afriforum.co.za • **Directors:** Ms A. Bailey, Mr P.J.W. Buys, Dr H.K. Coetzee, Mr P.L. Dekker, Mr F.J.D. de Klerk, Mr G.R. de Vries, Dr D.J. Hermann, Mr W.G. Human, Mr C.M. Kriel and Dr R. Pretorius. • **Company Secretary:** Mr W.A. Vogel.
Registration number: 2005/042861/08 • **NGO number:** 054 - 590

We are still waiting for the second case number. The one we received is case number CAS 76/5/2024, registered on 3 May 2024.

As you are aware, AfriForum initially laid criminal charges in 2018 regarding the continuous discharge of untreated sewage into rivers and the environment. Although a summons has now finally been issued in that matter, it has taken nearly five years for the case to reach court. During this period, the environmental damage has escalated significantly, and the sewage crisis has worsened to an alarming extent.

Raw sewage continues to flow into rivers, residential areas and public spaces, posing serious risks to public health, water security and the environment. The ongoing pollution is not only unlawful but represents a direct violation of residents' constitutional right to a safe and healthy environment.

Given the severity and urgency of the situation, AfriForum cannot accept a similar delay in the 2024 matters. Communities simply cannot wait another five years for accountability while the pollution continues unchecked.

We therefore respectfully request that the Department:

- Urgently investigate the two cases opened in 2024.
- Prioritise enforcement action in terms of the National Water Act and environmental legislation.
- Ensure that responsible officials are held personally accountable and that these matters are expedited for prosecution.

Immediate intervention is necessary to prevent further environmental degradation and to restore lawful and effective management of sewage infrastructure in Emfuleni. AfriForum remains willing to cooperate fully with the Department and to provide any supporting documentation or evidence required to assist the investigation.

We trust that the Department will treat this matter with the urgency it deserves and we look forward to your prompt response.

Note: Please see photos attached of the current situation in the Vaal River.

Kind regards

Jaco Grobbelaar
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AfriForum
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