

Damaged septic tank danger to primary school and Slangspruit river

CHELSEA PIETERSE

A POORLY fenced septic tank at Slangspruit Primary School that has been left open and exposed for the past three weeks, has local residents concerned for the community's safety.

A concerned local who asked not to be named said a tipper truck had fallen into the septic tank a few months ago and was stuck inside the tank for several days.

He said the septic tank had been left open for three weeks and it posed a great danger to the community and Slangspruit Primary pupils as well as to the environment.

He said a few community members had already lost livestock that had fallen into the tank and drowned.

"It is a hazard to the locals, especially for the school pupils who might sink and drown in this, but as it stands that is the possibility.

"It is not secured and adequately

fenced off to passers-by, which I feel is an accident waiting to happen."

He added that whenever it rained, the tank overflowed, contaminating the Slangspruit river with sewage.

"We can't wait until something goes wrong and then act," he said.

The principal of Slangspruit Primary School confirmed the Department of Education and the school were in talks and attending to the issue.

The Department of Education has been urged to deal with the situation "as a crisis".

KwaZulu-Natal Education Department spokesperson Sihle Mlotshwa said in response to a query that they do "consider this to be a priority because its about health and safety of our learners".

"We have engaged the Department of Public Works and they have undertaken to come and look at the problem," he said.

• chelsea.pieterse@witness.co.za



A poorly fenced septic tank outside Slangspruit Primary School has locals concerned for the well-being of the pupils and local residents, as well as the Slangspruit river.

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