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Sewage crisis heads to High Court

DA PR councillor Sithembiso Ngema points to a persistent sewage leak in Merebank which has never been fixed. **PHOTO: Supplied.**

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THE Democratic Alliance (DA) is taking eThekweni Municipality to court over the sewage crisis.

Persistent sewage blockages affecting many communities in Durban, including those in the south, had not been addressed through legal action until now.

Many communities on The Bluff, Wentworth, Merebank and Montclair have been complaining about unmaintained sewerage drains that result in sewage blockages.

The DA approached the Pietermaritzburg High Court to compel the municipality to account for the state of the service delivery in the city. The DA held a protest outside

court that was led by the provincial leader, Francois Rodgers, provincial chairperson, Dean Macpherson and DA eThekweni caucus leader and councillor, Thabani Mthethwa.

PR councillor for the DA in ward 68, Sithembiso Ngema, said sewage blockades in Merebank and Wentworth have become a daily occurrence.

“Sewer line are the most persistent problem in Merebank as well as the entire city and again the city is saying nothing. How are they going to ensure that the deal with this problem and install the new sewage pumps and pipes so that we will have a free flow because this problem hinders even businesses in other areas. The water tanker Mafia is still a problem. The city continues to have dilapidated roads riddled with potholes and sink holes,”

Ngema added.

Provincial communications coordinator, Nqobile Nhleko, said in a statement, “Our case centers on the inability of the ANC-IFP-EFF run municipality to effectively and adequately implement a turnaround plan to fix the infrastructure of the municipality, ensure enough financial resources are allocated to it and adhere to environmental directives by both national and provincial government.”

Nhleko said, “We have been on the ground with the people to ensure victory is achieved. When our arguments are presented in the court, it will show that it is well researched and fact-based litigation by the legal team compared to the other legal teams who will attempt to put on a “show” in the desperate need to be seen to be doing something,” Nhleko added.