



EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

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To: SOUTH AFRICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

RE: CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO WATER AND SANITATION– INXUBA
YETHEMBA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

According to the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, section 27 (1)(b), every person has the right to access to sufficient water. The section goes further in section 27 (2) in that the state must take reasonable legislative and other measures, within its available resources, to achieve the progressive realisation of this right.

I am writing to you, to report that 25 years after South Africa became a democracy and 22 years after the adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa there are still people without access to the basic human right of sufficient, clean, drinking water.

Communities in Cradock, Inxuba Yethemba Local Municipality in the Eastern Cape are still without the basic rights off access to sufficient, clean drinking water.

These residents make use of drinking water taken directly from the Great Fish River.

The Waste Water Treatment Works in Cradock, which falls under the auspices of the Chris Hani District Municipality, has been non-functional for an extended period of time and raw sewage is flowing untreated into the Fish River.

This constitutes a massive health hazard for the people making use of the river for drinking water and also to farmers making use of the Fish River for irrigation purposes.

This is a gross violation of the basic human rights afforded to these people.

I am writing to you to urgently intervene in terms of these human rights violations.

Regards,

Retief Odendaal, MPL
Eastern Cape Legislature