



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT RSA
DEPUTY SHADOW MINISTER:
HIGHER EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Republic of South Africa PO Box 15 Cape Town 8000
Email: baxolilenodada@gmail.com
Tel: 021 403 2652
Cell: 063 795 7519 / 067 092 8893
www.parliament.gov.za

**To: PUBLIC PROTECTOR
MS BUSISIWE MKHWEBANE**

BY EMAIL

Dear Public Protector

RE: Urgent matter of concern with regard to the inaction of the Alfred Nzo District Municipality to find a solution to the humanitarian water crisis in the district.

The residents of the Alfred Nzo District Municipality (ANDM) are being denied their constitutional right to water.

Between 8 July and 19 August I did oversight inspections at several villages and wards in the district and was shocked by the lack of water and sanitation provided to our people. I found that people have to make use of rivers and share water sources with animals. In some cases water infrastructure has been installed, but the taps are mostly dry and water trucks are not being dispatched by the Municipality.

On the 17th of July I wrote to the Executive Mayor of the ANDM, Cllr Sixolile Mehlomakhulu, and gave him 7 days to respond with a water plan for the district, but received no feedback.

This followed after I conducted an oversight inspection at Ndarhala Village and found that the community's only water source is the Umzimvubu River.

Furthermore, on the 25th of July I also submitted a complaint with the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) regarding this crisis. I have now been informed that the SAHRC will indeed proceed with an investigation.

On the 30th of August 2019, at the Alfred Nzo District offices in Mount Ayliff, I submitted a memorandum to the municipality in which we demand some of the following of Mayor Mehlomakhulu:

- Provide proof of a budget for water and sanitation for the Alfred Nzo District Municipality with specific details of where water will be installed in this financial year;
- Proof of how many villages of the 187 in the district have permanent good quality water accessible on a daily basis, and proof of a daily water delivery plan to communities without;
- Provide a plan with specific timelines of when underground infrastructure, taps and water will be installed; and
- Commit to delivering water to these wards/villages/communities at least twice a week as a temporary measure.

I gave the Mayor 14 days to respond and even reminded him, via email communication on 11 September 2019, of the 14 September 2019 deadline for feedback. The deadline was not met and no communication has been forthcoming from the Municipality.

The Mayor and the Alfred Nzo District Municipality are failing in their mandate to deliver even the most basic of services to the people and at the same time violating their basic human rights enshrined in the South African Constitution.

A government needs to be accountable to the people and the legislators informing its budget. In this case the actions of the ANDM highlight that the municipality is under the impression that it is accountable to no one and continuously undermines the oversight role played by Members of Parliament.

Your urgent attention and response to this matter is appreciated.

Regards,

Signature

BAXOLILE NODADA MP

Deputy Shadow Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology.

Email: baxolilenodada@gmail.com

Cell: 063 795 7519 / 067 092 8893