



Democratic Alliance Eastern Cape

Councillor Monwabisi Malungisa

Sakhisizwe Local Municipality

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To: SOUTH AFRICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

RE: CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO DECENT SANITATION – CHRIS HANI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

According to the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa every person has the right to access to sufficient water and decent sanitation.

The lack of water and sanitation is a public health crisis, and deprives people of their right to live in dignity.

It is therefore with disappointment and disbelief that I am writing to you, to report that today, 26 years after South Africa became a democracy and 24 years after the adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa that there are still people without access to the basic human right of decent sanitation.

The people living in the informal settlement of Old Township in Elliot in the Sakhisizwe Local Municipality, situated in the Chris Hani District Municipality of the Eastern Cape, are living with sewage flowing in the streets and underneath and into their homes. This has been reported to the Chris Hani District Municipality on several occasions since 2017, but still the situation persists.

The municipality contends that sewerage pipes in the area are rotten and in 2018 sent a company to fix the situation. The workmanship was shoddy and still residents have to contend with sewage in their homes and in the streets.

What is of greater concern is recent reports indicating that the deadly Coronavirus can spread by being in proximity to raw sewage.

This is a gross violation of the people of the settlement's basic human rights and creates a situation that can lead to a massive increase in the spread of the dreaded Coronavirus in rural Eastern Cape. I am therefore writing to you to urgently intervene in terms of these human rights violations.

Kind regards

Cllr Monwabisi Malungisa