



**EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE**  
**Democratic Alliance Member of the Provincial Legislature**  
The Hon. Retief Odendaal, MPL.



**Provincial Legislature**  
**Private Bag x0051**  
**Bhisho, 5605**

**Cell: 082 462 0668**

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**DATE: 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

**THE PREMIER**

**HON OSCAR MABUYANE MPL**

**EASTERN CAPE**

Dear Hon Premier,

**RE: STATE OF DISASTER – EASTERN CAPE DROUGHT**

The aforementioned matter has reference.

Firstly, I wish to thank you for your continued hard work in endeavouring to lead the province through the Covid-19 pandemic. I know that it is a difficult time for you and we appreciate the personal sacrifices that you are making in order to lead the province and our people through this difficult period.

That said, I note with concern the fact that the province has still not gazetted a state of disaster in respect of the ongoing drought. As you know, a number of municipalities in the province are still facing water security problems and some of these municipalities are still implementing drought mitigation projects and/or water augmentation projects.

I have in the past requested that the provincial administration assists local government in gazetting state of disasters or, if need be, to extend declared state of disasters. Unfortunately to date, this has not happened and as a result, municipalities that still have serious water constraints are currently not declared official disaster areas. This means that these municipalities cannot make use of the benefits which such declarations offer.

A major cause for concern is Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality, which gazetted their state of disaster last year, but neglected to renew same. This metro is now no longer gazetted as a state of disaster, notwithstanding the fact that its two major supply dams, the Kouga Dam is at 14.5% and the Impofu Dam is at 16,5%. Collectively the dam levels supplying Nelson Mandela Bay have continued to drop, down from 28,5% in February to just 23,7% currently.

With no significant rainfall expected in the catchment areas for Nelson Mandela Bay within the foreseeable future, the metro is heading for severe water shortages if there is no immediate intervention!

While I understand that your immediate attention is focused on addressing the monumental task of dealing with the Coronavirus pandemic that certainly poses a massive risk to the people

and the economy of the Eastern Cape, I request that you also urgently give due attention to the massive drought related risks that the Western side of this province remains faced with.

In this regard, I specifically request that you consider instructing CoGTA to provide the necessary assistance to all drought-stricken municipalities in gazetting their drought declarations. This I believe would be the first step in ensuring that our municipalities are in a position to start addressing their respective drought related issues.

I trust you will receive this correspondence favourably.

Sincerely,



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**Retief Odendaal, MPL**

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**CC: NELSON MANDELA BAY MUNICIPAL MANAGER (Acting)**

**EXECUTIVE MAYOR, NLESON MANDELA BAY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY**

**FREEDOM. FAIRNESS. OPPORTUNITY. DIVERSITY.**