



Norman Silke
DA Eastern Cape
Provincial Communications Manager
Cell: +27 83 271 1811
Tel: +27 41 450 9500
Email: normans@da.org.za
www.da.org.za
C/O Mount Road and Diaz Road, Port Elizabeth, 6001

Nelson Mandela Bay and Kouga Water Crisis:

Dams:

Overall, the Metro's supply dams are currently at just 20.70% of their capacity. Kouga dam is at 10.38% of capacity, Impofu dam at 16.45%, Churchill dam at 63.88% and the Groendal dam at 34.79%.

The Impofu dam is below the intake level. This means no water is forthcoming from this dam. To augment this, 90 megalitres of water is currently being rerouted from the Churchill dam, which is at 63.88%. The water from the Churchill dam is being pumped to the coastal western suburbs and areas such as Newton Park, Mill Park and Central.

The Impofu dam is three times the size of the Churchill dam and, therefore, the Churchill has shown a dramatic drop in its water level, which stood at 86.19% in November 2019. The extended drought will eventually lead to NMB not being able to extract water from the Churchill dam.

The Eastern region of the Metro also receives water from the Nooitgedacht Water Scheme (160 megalitres) and from the Loerie holding dam (45-50 megalitres).

Since August 2018 the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality has been aware that a **BARGE** would need to be procured to extract what is left of the potable water in the Impofu dam. This barge is still not operational.



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Water Projects:

The **COEGAKOP WELLFIELD** project, which is also supposed to augment the water supply to NMB, is still limping along. Not a cent of the Metro's R200-million Drought Mitigation Funding has been spent as a result of appeals in respect of the BAC award. The NMB Interim Executive Mayor has indicated that the entire R200-million is "committed". What this means is that it was earmarked to be utilised in the Wellfield project as no municipal funding can be committed and paid before actual work has been done. The City is likely to forfeit at least R100-million of this grant due to the fact that this would be the second application for roll over of the funding.

PHASE 3 of the **NOOITGEDACHT WATER SCHEME**, which will increase the output to 210 megalitres was commissioned but the project has been standing still since June 2019.

Upgrades to the **CHANNEL** being constructed in the Sundays River Valley to relay water between the Gariep dam and Nooitgedacht is still not complete.

The Metro administration, through its political head of Infrastructure and Engineering, Andile Lungisa, has on numerous instances indicated that a **DESALINATION PLANT** could resolve our problems.

A desalination plant can't resolve the current drought cycle and would only be helpful in future, as it will take up to 3 years to complete. Furthermore, there is currently no funding for such a project at a National, Provincial or Local level.

Saving Kouga Municipality and Gamtoos Valley from Day Zero:

It has been calculated that the Kouga Dam will be at 5,6% of capacity by the end of June. Furthermore, 3,1% of this total is dead capacity, as it cannot be extracted from the dam.



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This will be an unmitigated disaster for the residents of the Kouga Municipality and farmers in the Gamtoos River Valley.

The DA is, therefore, demanding that the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro stops extracting water from the Kouga dam.

This demand will be made via a formal letter to the NMB Executive Mayor, the NMB City Manager and the Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation.

The following steps can be taken to counteract the shortfall created by not extracting water from the Kouga dam:

- Demand reduction;
- Water pressure reduction;
- Maximum extraction from the Nooitgedacht Scheme.

Nelson Mandela Bay's daily water consumption is exceptionally high. The Metro should use no more than 250 megalitres per day – but by March 2020 the daily consumption had increased to 329 megalitres.

The main reason for this is the municipality's total lack of communication when it comes to public awareness regarding the water crisis.

The DA has now launched a webpage solely focused on the City's water crisis. This will serve as a one-stop shop for residents to get all the water information critical to saving our supply dams from Day Zero. Our plan to avoid Day Zero and water savings tips are also posted regularly on Facebook and Twitter.

Residents must also be made aware of the fact that a Plan B exists in terms of the water crisis. Plan B refers the building or upgrading of water infrastructure to ensure that water



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from Nooitgedacht can also be reticulated to the Western and Southern regions of the Bay. These projects were never embarked on and these regions will run dry the moment the Metro ceases to extract water from the dams. This could lead to these areas being without tap water for months on end.

The DA's action plan to mitigate the water crisis entails:

- The Metro must make emergency budget veriments in order for these infrastructure projects to be funded and completed.
- The municipality must embark on emergency procurement processes to ensure that contracts are awarded and work commences.
- We will request civil society to join us in our call for immediate action. If the Western and Southern regions of the Metro run dry, it will decimate what is left of our economy.
- Issues with SMMEs are the main reason the project to provide additional capacity from the Canal in the Sundays River Valley is at a standstill. The DA will write to the Department of Water Affairs to request that it intervenes in this regard.
- Water supply to all schools should be disconnected. There are hundreds of leaks and many running toilets in unmaintained schools across the Metro. All schools are closed. The supply can be reconnected when schools reopen.
- We must start preparing hospitals for the worst. All hospitals in the Western and Southern areas - such as Livingstone, Port Elizabeth Provincial, Netcare Greenacres and Life S Georges - must be advised to install ground water supply systems.
- Council must request that the DWA immediately provide additional water tankers and Jojo tanks to Nelson Mandela Bay.
- Council must request urgent advice from national treasury on measures to prevent the forfeiture of the R200-million Drought Mitigation Funding.
- The municipality must immediately appoint additional plumbers and/or contractors to attend to the 7000 water leaks in the Metro.
- Council must make sure that the barge on the Impofu dam is immediately operational.



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DA interventions:

- We wrote to the Speaker to request an urgent council meeting via a digital platform to discuss plans to mitigate the water crisis.
- The DA wrote to the DWA to second a water infrastructure engineer to Nelson Mandela Bay to assist the local infrastructure and engineering staff and share skills and best practice.
- We have written to the MEC for CoGTA and requested that the Eastern Cape portfolio committee of Cooperative Governance convene an urgent meeting to focus attention on the drought disaster and to discuss possible measures to assist NMBM and Kouga Municipality in this regard.
- We have embarked on an extensive communications drive to update residents on a daily basis regarding dam levels, water consumption and steps they can take to save water.