



## **FREE STATE WATER STATUS REPORT**

**10 January 2021**

The Democratic Alliance has received many complaints from residents from various towns across the Free State regarding water supply and quality problems.

The water scarcity experienced by many residents of local municipalities has recently been compounded and exposed by the global Covid-19 pandemic that requires people to practice water based hygiene such as regular hand washing.

The Constitution (Act 108 of 1996) states that:

*“Everyone has the right*

- a. to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being; and*
- b. to have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures that*
  - i. prevent pollution and ecological degradation;*
  - ii. promote conservation; and*
  - iii. secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting justifiable economic and social development”.* (section 24)

This right cannot be guaranteed by the provincial and local governments in the Free State that lack the institutional capacity to deliver on such rights. The continued water security in the Free State requires the presence of authorities that can take responsibility for the day-to-day as well as long-term provision and management of water. A World Wildlife Fund Report indicates that: *“South Africa’s water security depends on the sustained supply from our water resources. These are the natural capital on which all our investments into the water sector depend. It is imperative that they are conserved, restored, monitored and carefully managed”.*<sup>1</sup>

A joint report by Corruption Watch and the Water Integrity Project have identified a number of reasons for the decline in South Africa’s water sector that include:

- The decline in the reliability of water services supply.
- A decrease in the resilience of services to problems such as droughts that lead to regular supply failures for millions of residents across the country.
- The non-payment for water by impoverished residents that is affecting operations and maintenance of water supply infrastructure.

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<sup>1</sup> Colvin, C.; Muruven, D.; Lindley, D.; Gordon, H. and Schachtshneider, K. (2016). Water: facts and Futures, *World Wildlife Fund Report*. Cape Town: WWF-SA. P7.



- Pollution of rivers due to failed municipal wastewater management and poorly regulated economic activities.<sup>2</sup>

One of the main reasons for the water supply and quality problems relates to poor financial management and corruption which is amplified in the poor Auditor-General’s reports that the Free State municipalities and the provincial government departments receive. The looting of financial resources in the province have included the capture of entire water sector and water support initiatives. In fact every facet of municipal management has been exploited.

The current mismanagement of water resources in the Free State is fast becoming a serious political and environmental issue. Conflict and political unrest over water is already a reality, particularly as a result of failing service delivery to many residents of municipalities. The provision of a healthy and sustainable water supply is an important part of the Free State’s economic, social and environmental future.

The sad reality is that while South Africa remains one of the 30 driest countries in the world and experiences serious national water scarcity, the Free State currently has an abundance of water but residents remain waterless due to water supply and water pollution related management issues.

The DA has received the following information per district. This information is a summary of some of the most pressing water related issues in the districts, and is not an in-depth analysis of all the issues or their inherent causes.

**THABO MOFUTSANYANA DISTRICT**

<p><b>Dihlabeng</b></p>	<p>All towns in Dihlabeng, namely Bethlehem, Paul Roux, Rosendal, Fouriesburg and Clarens have experienced serious water supply and quality problems since the middle of December 2020. This is besides the sporadic problems in previous months and years.</p> <p>While the dams are full due to the ongoing rain and even floods in some areas, water supply to the taps of residents remains problematic and water quality is very poor. This is due to aged infrastructure, lack of maintenance and the failure to prioritise the necessary budget to mitigate this. The infrastructure to supply water in Dihlabeng is not adequate to meet the increased demand and will require urgent intervention to build new plants and decentralise supply to smaller town in the municipality.</p> <p>The Dihlabeng Municipality does not prioritise basic service delivery issues in their budget, but rather the politically expedient nice to have’s such as billboards of the mayor, vehicles for politicians and a</p>
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<sup>2</sup> Muller, M. (03.2020). Money down the Drain: corruption in South Africa’s water sector, Johannesburg: Corruption Watch and the Water Integrity Network. P12.



	<p>great deal of unnecessary politically motivated personnel and overtime payments.</p> <p>A serious problem in Dihlabeng is a deliberate attempt to mislead residents and councillors regarding the causes of the problems.</p> <p>In Dihlabeng there has been a failure to communicate effectively with residents regarding water supply and quality problems over December 2020 and during January 2021. Inadequate alternative measures have been put in place to mitigate the problem of household water supply to residents during the water crisis and emergency water supplies are inadequate and are not always safe for human consumption.</p>
<b>Nketoana</b>	<p>Reitz has water, albeit not of ideal quality. Lindley and Petrus Steyn have experienced water supply problems for many years and the new pipeline to mitigate this has been delayed by issues relating to the allocation of tenders and allegations of political interference and financial mismanagement. It is alleged that the former Municipal manager was removed on the insistence of the provincial government because he stopped the tender that he insisted was irregular. Maintenance of water related infrastructure remain a serious issue in these towns. New residential areas have been allowed to be established without ensuring the necessary service delivery infrastructure.</p> <p>Lindley only has water from 14H00 to 18H00 and Arlington was without water for two weeks.</p>
<b>Phumelela</b>	<p>Dams in Phumelela are overflowing. Problems occur mainly over weekends when the pumps are not switched on through negligence. There are intermittent problems with burst pipes, but these are attended to quite quickly. During drought conditions when the dams have dried up, Warden and Vrede are served by water tankers. Memel has no problems at present.</p> <p>Vrede dam is overflowing and no problems to report.</p> <p>Warden old dam is overflowing so there are minimal problems.</p> <p>The new Warden dam completed about four years ago has never been made operational. The pump station and water treatment plant serving the new dam have regularly been vandalised. Currently the new water treatment plant has had all its electrical cables stolen.</p>
<b>Maluti-a-Phofung</b>	<p>The three dams serving MaP are overflowing or quite full, so there is sufficient water available.</p> <p>There was a recent big problem in the Greater Harrismith area when the water treatment plant was struck by lightning. This meant that water abstracted from the Wilge River and Nuwejaarspruit (Sterkfontein) could not be treated. The problem lasted for about a</p>



	<p>week but is now under control. A new pipeline has been installed from the Wilge Treatment Plant to Intabazwe, and from Nuwejaarspruit to the Wilge Treatment Plant.</p> <p>Wilgepark experiences constant water problems. A new reservoir is being built but progress is very slow. There are also constant burst pipes and Afriforum have now requested that the MM allow them to donate a pressure valve. Previously this offer has been refused. When the reservoir is completed the problems in Wilgepark should be alleviated.</p> <p>Kestell has experienced extreme water problems for many years. For a few years Kestell had to rely on tankered water. A new pipeline from Qwa Qwa, and a new reservoir are almost ready to be used. The current pressure has also been regulated (with the assistance of a local contractor) so that there is a constant flow to the town.</p> <p>Qwa Qwa villages still have constant problems. There are currently no water tankers delivering water, and piped water is intermittent. Some emergency pipelines and links have been constructed and this has alleviated the terrible conditions a year ago. Katlehong village in Ward 23 has no piped water and no tankered water is being delivered. The mountainous areas of Ward 28 also have no water. Ward 16 only has some water once or twice a week. People are forced to use natural springs or streams. Moeding village in Ward 21 has no water. This has been reported repeatedly.</p> <p>The good rains have meant that people in Qwa Qwa can access some water from streams and springs but this is extremely dangerous as the seven sewage plants in MaP are all completely dysfunctional.</p> <p>The numerous jojo tanks dispersed around Qwa Qwa are not being regularly filled, rendering them useless.</p> <p>This remains a serious human rights issue.</p>
<p><b>Setsoto</b></p>	<p><u>Ficksburg:</u></p> <p>Due to the rain, the Meulspruit dam has water, but ward 12 is still experiencing water shortages. Water has been transported from neighbouring farms by water trucks. Problems are experienced due to poor maintenance and non-availability of material such as parts for repairs. Infrastructure remains old and water leaks are a constant problem.</p> <p><u>Marquard:</u></p> <p>Marquard has been experiencing unresolved water related issues for many years. The damaged dam wall and sluices implies that even if the dam receives water, it is unavailable for use. While tenders were allocated for the repairs to the dam wall, three years later the</p>



	<p>problem has not been resolved. The water problems remain very serious.</p> <p><u>Senekal:</u> Senekal is without water for weeks at a time without any communication from the municipality. Burst pipes, ageing infrastructure and ANC infighting are the main problems to water related services.</p>
<p><b>Mantsopa</b></p>	<p>All five towns have inconsistent water supply mainly due to financial constraints, lack of maintenance and mismanagement.</p> <p>None of these towns have seen a water test result in at least the last 5 years and water quality is bad. Water supply to residents in most areas is often brownish in colour and on occasion brown muddy slush. One of the biggest issues from Mantsopa administration's side is that they are unable to collect income from residents for water supply. To assist them in their incapacity, Council agreed that prepaid water meters will be bought (as the funds become available) and placed firstly into the thousands of households that have never had a water meter installed, secondly into properties with broken water meters, then government buildings/properties and finally into the rest of Mantsopa residents. Because the ANC councillors did not share this information as prescribed with their communities, this project is failing dismally. In fact the only ward where collections are actually taking place (Ward 7) has since had all their household's working water meters replaced with prepaid water meters. Going against the decision made at the revenue enhance planning strategy as approved in Council. I can only imagine this is to be able to pay the contractor who was appointed to install the water meters.</p> <p>Other wards where this project was to be implemented, the residents have revolted, and the installations are severely hindered. Mantsopa water losses are recorded in the 2018/19 financial year to be 34%. Many water leaks are not seen to, the most alarming one, is one farm hosting the mainline from the purification plant to town (Marriondale Farm). This pipe has a massive hole in it, and leaking onto a farmer's land, causing huge damage to the farmer's crops. The farmer has reported this matter to the municipality on many occasions.</p> <p><u>Tweespruit:</u> The continuous and consistent supply of water depends on the water levels, and load shedding schedule. If there is no load shedding Tweespruit town, Dawiesville gets water in the morning and Borwa location in the afternoon, but because of a reliance on</p>



boreholes, residents are sometimes informed that the water level is too low therefore the pump is unable to pump water.

There were water distribution points in Borwa location but the community burnt down those JoJo tanks during the service delivery strike in 2020.

Thaba Phatsoa:

The supply of water in Thaba Phatswa is inconsistent which is due to the broken pump at the Armenia dam which went in for repair early last year. There are water distribution points at 7de laan street, a JoJo tank was installed there but it sometimes takes days without being filled up. There is a municipal vehicle that is delivering water for residents.

Hobhouse:

Hobhouse gets its water from the Leeuwriver through a water board in Hobhouse. The town had recent problems with supply due to the non-payment of the supplier. They have alternative support, but that has been plagued with mechanical problems lately. Reports were yesterday that pumps are running fine and no complaints in the last few days.

Excelsior:

Water supply in Excelsior is constant daily, but only a reservoir per day which often runs out towards evening. The boreholes did not produce enough and Bloemwater supply was negotiated in 2009 and thus too little. Water points have been set up in Mahlatswetsa to boost supply, The quality is not bad but no test results have been supplied.

Marseilles:

Marseilles have a delivery point, but delivery is often inconsistent.

Ladybrand /Modderpoort:

Ladybrand consists of 5 of the 9 wards in Mantsopa and is desperate for intervention in terms of water quality and supply. Ladybrand water supply depends on the Caledon River firstly and the Cathcart dam secondly. There are one or two boreholes that supplies an area called Platberg.

The Cathcart dam, which is situated close to the Caledon River does not get filled from the Caledon (although it can be), because the pump for this purpose was washed away many years ago.

Ladybrand sewage plant is supposed to purify the sewage water. "Purified" water that flows into a stream (unnamed) that runs directly into the Cathcart dam. The Cathcart dam, over the years has silted up to a certain extent, reducing its capacity.

Because the Ladybrand water sewage plant is only 20% functional, the water that flows to the Cathcart dam is polluted with



	<p>sewage. We have raised this matter with administration and through the ward councillor's report to council on numerous occasions.</p> <p>Residents often receive water with floating bits in. This has been reported to the SAHRC and they have visited and addressed the matter on more than one occasion, the last time was early 2020. A criminal case was opened against the Municipal Manager and Mayor in January 2020 for the fact that the multiple sewage leaks are flooding the unnamed stream that flows to the Cathcart dam, thus polluting our reservoir with raw sewage.</p> <p>Up to 30% of residents, with taps, live without access to running water on a daily basis. This is due to the fact (as told by administration) that there is not enough pressure built up to push the water to higher lying areas in Ladybrand. This has been going on for at least 5 years, even longer.</p> <p>One formalised area in Thabong (extension 10) has NO access to water except through a few JoJo tanks that are sparsely placed around the area. This then also means no flushing toilets.</p> <p>There are 4 informal settlements (2 are being formalised) that have only access to water via one or two taps in the area. Again this means there are no flushing toilets.</p> <p><u>Modderpoort:</u></p> <p>Modderpoort is an abandoned train station just outside of Ladybrand. A small community live there. The water infrastructure from Ladybrand to Modderpoort belongs to Transnet. Often Modderpoort residents are left without access to water when the pump at the reservoir in Modderpoort breaks. In March last year residents were left without water for weeks on end as Transnet refused to repair the infrastructure because they claimed to be losing funds in this area. It cost us addressing the matter through the NCOP to have the matter seen to.</p> <p>As part of the Covid-19 relief from government, Mantsopa has been allocated R47 million meant for upgrading water infrastructure and supplying consistent clean water to residents.</p>
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**FEZILE DABI DISTRICT**

<p><b>Metsimaholo</b></p>	<p><u>Sasolburg:</u></p> <p>60% of the water infrastructure piping is 60 to 65 years old. The municipality makes use of old asbestos cement pipes that can't handle pressures higher than 400 kPa. Part of the problem is bad</p>
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	<p>operation where pressure increase to 400 to 500 kPa. Pipe replacements in certain areas are budgeted for, but only patching is done when leaks occur. Sasolburg has a major problem with burst pipes on main line. When fixed, it normally bursts the next day again.</p> <p><u>Refengkgotso (Deneysville):</u> The community are complaining about diarrhoea caused by the dirty household water supply.</p> <p><u>Oranjeville:</u> The water treatment plant and the raw water extraction system require urgent upgrading, due to old rubber pipes without a proper system to move the pipe deeper in the dam, during the dry season. No standby pump are functioning at the plant for pumping the water to the residents when the existing pump breaks. The raw water cement dam walls at the plant are cracked and thus leak water in the road and yards of neighbouring residents. The two reservoirs at the plant have not been cleaned for the past five years. The two sewerage plants in Oranjeville are also in desperate need of maintenance.</p>
<b>Ngwathe</b>	<p><u>Parys:</u> The municipality has been working on the treatment plant for almost a year, but it does not reach completion. All indications are that the plant, even at full capacity, will not be able to meet the demand (especially also given massive water losses due to leaks). The townships, Tumahole and Schonkenville, suffer from water supply problems almost weekly - with areas that sometimes do not have water for extended periods of time. More than a year ago, Parys' irrigation water supply was also discontinued. The town's purification plant was never intended to supply water to gardens as well, and after the discontinuation of the irrigation water, the water problem is even worse. The already limited water must now also be used for gardens.</p> <p><u>Edenville:</u> Pressure very low, at times only half an hour to 6 hour's water daily.</p> <p><u>Koppies:</u> Waterworks are too small to serve the entire community. Infrastructure presents problems weekly. No valves in working condition, if there is a burst pipe, the entire network is shut down.</p>
<b>Mafube</b>	<p>In all areas of Mafube thousands of residents are dependent on water tankers to supply them with water. These residents get about 25 litres of water per household per day for cooking, cleaning, bathing etc.</p>





The technical department does not keep basic stock like pipes, clamps, valves or stop cocks. This result in a simple pipe burst that should be fixed within an hour, leaving the entire town without water for 2 days. Some residents go for two weeks without water because the Municipality is struggling to procure a single stop cock to replace a faulty one.

Frankfort/Namahadi:

The electrical Panel at the Wilge River intake tower is faulty. This means there is no standby available. If there is a problem on either of the other panels only one pump can be operated, unable to supply enough water with just one pump.

Frankfort:

Frankfort does not have enough storage capacity for purified water and if a problem arise the town runs out of water within 4 hours. A new pipeline is being installed to supply the Namahadi residents with water, but purification and storage capacity is not upgraded. This will in effect mean when a problem does arise, reservoirs will be empty within 2 hours.

The purification capacity is way too low for the demand, and this results in certain areas having to be cut off from time to time to build capacity.

Namahadi:

Namahadi residents have experienced serious direct water supply issues for almost ten years now. The pipes are there, the taps are there, but Municipality failed to upgrade supply capacity. This is causing major health risks, as these residents use buckets to relieve themselves and then have to dump sewerage in the veld.

There are many water leaks that are not attended to which is resulting in major water losses. The last calculation done indicates that Frankfort alone loses 43% of purified water due to poor maintained infrastructure.

Due to failure to maintain purification plant, clarifiers and filters, water is often a brown colour.

Cornelia:

Cornelia is dependent on Frankfort for water, and all the issues above affects them in the same way.

Tweeling:

In Tweeling the pumps supplying town is in a total state of decay, and the municipality is only able to supply certain areas at certain times with water due to constraints on the network.

Villiers:



	<p>Villiers are also struggling due to no available spares for repairs, leaving residents without water for days while they are struggling to get spares.</p> <p>The Villiers plant also fails on many occasions to provide clean water, due to poor condition of the plant.</p>
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#### LEJWELEPUTSWA DISTRICT

<b>Masilonyana</b>	<p>When water issues occur the location of water tanks is not communicated to all residents.</p> <p><u>Theunissen:</u> The asbestos pipes burst regularly and another recent notice has been sent to residents indicating that they will be without water.</p> <p><u>Brandfort:</u> Brandfort was without water for some time recently due to electrical cable problems. A backup generator had to be sources from the Winburg sewerage works to mitigate the problem. In spite of a Human Right Commission report in this regard, Joe Slovo park has been without water for 15 years.</p> <p><u>Winburg:</u> Certain parts of Winburg remain without water for months and it appears that the municipality are unable to remedy this situation due to the lack of expertise.</p>
<b>Nala</b>	<p>Consequential damage resulting from the current water rationing by Sedibeng is affecting its operational area (Including Nala and Matjhabeng).</p> <p>The constant sporadic availability of potable water in the pipe system results in Burnt out geysers, flooded work areas due to unclosed pipes and damage to equipment, ceilings, carpets etc. in house of residents.</p> <p>Riebeeckstad reservoirs are often low, resulting in a lack of supply of water gravitating to Waterbron and Monyakeng and Monyakeng Tower pumps often trip due to low reservoir levels.</p> <p>Information revealed that Sedibeng could not afford the required chemicals for the quality provision of water to Matjhabeng and Nala. The municipal debt to Bulk suppliers of Water and Electricity has the potential to destroy the local economies.</p> <p>Nala has failed to produce an Annual report, therefore severely undermining public accountability.</p> <p>The Municipal Disciplinary Board for financial misconduct in Nala should also address the non-payment to the municipality's Bulk Suppliers of Water and Electricity.</p>

	<p>Both Wesselsbron /Monyakeng and Bothaville/ Kgotsong's infrastructure management are not managed in accordance with the municipality's performance plan. The lack of maintenance and control is evident and organisational renewal and corrective action are required.</p> <p>The water quality in some areas remains very poor at this stage.</p>
<b>Moqhaka</b>	<p>Moqhaka Municipality is plagued by the following ongoing issues relating to water supply and quality:</p> <p>Ageing infrastructure, up to 70 years old, and burst pipes are the main problems regarding water supply problems.</p> <p>The lack of expertise and knowledge among officials to remedy the problems.</p> <p>Contractors doing work of local officials at inflated prices for no reason that eats into the budget for basic service delivery.</p> <p>Lack of equipment for municipal employees to remedy problems.</p> <p>A serious lack of communication with residents when issues arise.</p> <p>There is a slow turn-around time to remedy water supply and quality problems, normally two to three days.</p> <p>Poor planning leads to municipal employees wasting valuable time.</p>
<b>Matjhabeng</b>	<p>All towns in Matjhabeng are experiencing serious water and sewerage management problems. There are monthly water supply problems for days at a time in all towns, especially in Henneman. Some of the reasons include non-payment to Sedibeng Water Board who then cut off water supply to the municipality, poor and ageing infrastructure. Water leaks and regular sewerage that floods streets and yards of residents.</p> <p>Matjhabeng is a municipality that can be smelt from a distance before any of the towns are even visible.</p>
<b>Tokoloko</b>	<p>Currently Deallesville has serious water supply problems (no water) and water quality in hertzogville is very poor.</p>

**XARIEP DISTRICT**

<b>Letsemeng</b>	<p>Petrusburg has sporadic water supply since water is cut between 05h00 to 10h00 and again between 17H00 and 22H00.</p>
<b>Kopanong</b>	<p>Bethulie has problems with water pressure.</p>
<b>Mohokare</b>	<p>Trompsburg and Springfontein experience intermittent water supply due to poor water management.</p>



### MANGAUNG METRO MUNICIPLITY

<b>Soutpan</b>	Soutpan has regular water supply interruptions as a result of ageing infrastructure at the Krugersdrift dam and the long time frames to repair pumps when they break. Electricity problems due to non-payment to Eskom also affects water supply.
<b>Old Naledi (Dewetsdorp, Wepener and van Stadensrus):</b>	Regular water supply interruptions due to non-payment to Bloemwater, ageing infrastructure, long time frames for repairs and insufficient infrastructure that results in households in higher areas experiencing water supply problems due to poor pressure.
<b>Bloemfontein and surrounding suburbs:</b>	Regular water supply interruptions due to non-payment to Bloemwater, ageing infrastructure, long time frames for repairs and insufficient infrastructure results in residents not having access to water for days. Some areas have only had 75 days of water since April 2018. Bloemfontein North obtains water from Maselspoort that is purified and supplied by the metro and is less affected than other areas, but due to the fact that only one of the three pumps is maintained and water purification chemicals are not readily available due to non-payment to suppliers.

From the above information and discussions with public representatives it is possible to identify the following root causes of water supply, water quality and water sewerage related problems in the province:

- The lack of water-related technical and management expertise in many municipalities due to the ANC's cadre deployment strategy.
- Poor planning, financial mismanagement and lack of prioritisation of funds towards basic service delivery.
- Ageing water-related infrastructure and poor maintenance of infrastructure.
- Growing demand for household water due to rapid urbanisation and diminishing supply due to infrastructure and financial issues.
- The non-payment by residents and in many instances the non-payment of municipalities to Water Boards (Bloemwater and Sedibeng) for water, even though many residents do pay for water. Non-payment to Water Boards is tantamount to fraud.
- Financial mismanagement and corruption with emergency water supply and tenders relating to bulk infrastructure and maintenance.
- The failure to prioritise maintenance and bulk infrastructure in municipal budgets. In many instances residents are without water, but senior politicians demand perks such as official vehicles and money is spent on non-service delivery related expenses. Administrative and personnel related budgets that include unnecessary overtime payments, remains too high while service delivery is not prioritised.



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- Vandalism and theft at water and electricity facilities causes supply problems due to the lack of adequate security and in some instances appears to be deliberate sabotage.
- Internal ANC faction fighting affects councils that impacts on effective oversight over, and accountability of, municipal administrations.
- Municipal waste water treatment and management remains a serious environmental threat to water resources and human and animal health. There have been no legal consequences for this in spite of many criminal charges against senior officials.
- Oversight bodies such as councils and the Free State Legislature are undermined by the ANC who abuse their majorities to undermine effective oversight. Furthermore, the Human Rights Commission and the Public protector are toothless in enforcing recommendations.

While the Free State does not currently experience serious water scarcity due to good rains and full dams, residents continue to experience household water insecurity. Poor water quality, serious water supply problems and the lack of adequate waste water management are a serious threat to the basic human rights of individuals and remain environmental threats to communities in the Free State. It is clear that municipalities are unable to manage these issues effectively or efficiently. The provincial Department of Cooperative Government and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) is obsessed with political interference and the covering up financial mismanagement instead of ensuring basic services. In fact, spending money on unnecessary court cases appears to be a greater priority for COGTA than ensuring basic services to residents and assisting and monitoring municipalities' abilities to do this.

Adequate basic services are a prerequisite for local economic job creating development and the lack of services remains an impediment to such development. Increased unemployment and poverty can be directly traced to, among others, the lack of basic municipal services. The Special Economic Zone in MaP has cited this as an impediment to investors.

The Free State provincial government and municipalities have no plan to deal with basic service related issues, and if such a plan exists they do not have the political will to implement it. The ANC's district model plans will not solve the inherent causes of these issues and will only serve to create more costly bureaucratic structures, more jobs for pals and greater incentives for infighting over employment opportunities.

What is required is the prioritisation of all municipal funds towards the core responsibility of basic service delivery, bulk infrastructure and maintenance of existing infrastructure. Furthermore, municipal councils and the Free State Provincial Legislature are required to ensure oversight and accountability in terms of this core mandate which requires public representatives who are committed to the basic needs of their constituents and have the political will to take the tough decisions required for this.

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