



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

Hon Christopher Pappas MPL- Democratic Alliance
DA Spokesperson: Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs

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RE: UMHLATHUZE WATER ISSUES (11/02/2021)

Dear Hon. Cele, Chairperson of the Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs Portfolio

I hope that this finds you well.

I am writing to you in relation to the recent water related issues in the uMhlathuze Municipality in the King Cetshwayo District.

Over the past few days many residents of the area have taken to the streets in protests in response to ongoing water related issues in the area. Many of these issues have a historical context and related to, amongst others, corruption, poor investment into infrastructure, the lack of consequence management and the lack of transparency by the uMhlathuze council led by Mayor MG Mhlongo.

The systemic water problems have now boiled over into violent protests with community members expressing their extreme frustrations with current lack of water and the historical issues linked to this current outage.

I would hereby like to request an urgent oversight visit of the whole portfolio committee to the area to investigate the matter and to hear from the affected communities. The urgency of this matter cannot be understated as the situation has already boiled over and as the Provincial legislature we must do everything in our power to assist.

I further request that this oversight happened before Wednesday the 17th February (or sooner).

We have been fortunate to have been presented the KZN water master plan and we are all fully aware of the dire situation regarding water infrastructure in the province: including the King Cetshwayo District and uMhlathuze Municipality.

I look forward to your response in this regard.

Yours Sincerely

Hon. Christopher. J, PAPPAS (DA MPL)

DA Spokesperson on Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs in KZN