



**PARLIAMENT**  
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### **Urgent Request for SAHRC intervention into Msunduzi Municipality Water Crisis**

Good day,

I write to you as the Democratic Alliance (DA) Political Head of Msunduzi to request an urgent investigation and intervention into the water crisis facing residents of Msunduzi Municipality.

According to Section 27 (1)(b) of the South African Constitution, the right of access to sufficient water is accorded to everyone. In accordance with this, Msunduzi Municipality continues to fail in provision of this fundamental human right.

Msunduzi Municipality has been beset by crippling, frequent water outages that span hours to days due to inadequate and ill-maintained water infrastructure. There are also concerns that contractors employed by the municipality may too be sabotaging water infrastructure to rack up exorbitant fees.

In large areas of Pietermaritzburg, water outages are now a daily occurrence. In parts of Mafakathini, Pietermaritzburg, oversight revealed that the community has been without water for 9 years. These water outages have significantly decreased the quality of life for residents in Msunduzi, especially vulnerable sickly and elderly residents, whilst undermining the local economy. This situation has become dire and requires immediate intervention.

As it stands, Msunduzi Municipality is under extended administration in accordance with Section 139 (1) b of the constitution due to severe financial mismanagement and corruption. The municipal leadership, including the allocated COGTA administrator, have failed to resuscitate this municipality back from the brink of collapse. The present infrastructure maintenance budget which should have prioritized the maintenance of basic infrastructure stands at a paltry 3% of total budget. The dereliction of duty constitutes gross negligence on the part of the municipal leadership and the COGTA administrator who were well aware of the unfolding crisis in water supply.

We call on the Human Rights Commission to please urgently investigate the water crisis in Msunduzi Municipality. We can no longer allow residents to endure indefinite water outages – access to water is the right of every South African.

Thank you for consideration of this request.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'H.W.', written over a horizontal line.

Hannah Shameema Winkler

