



EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

Shadow MEC for Social Development

EC Midlands Constituency Leader

The Hon. Kobus Botha MPL



Provincial Legislature
Private Bag x0051
Bhisho, 5605

Cell: 076 130 6835
Email: kobusb@da.org.za
Page 1 of 2

22 February 2023

Mr Zolile Williams
MEC COGTA
Eastern Cape

Dear Mr Williams

RE: RESIDENTS SUFFER DUE TO EXTENDED WATER OUTAGES IN CRADOCK & MIDDELBURG AREA

I refer to various letters to your office, media articles, radio interviews and my debates in the Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature.

Extended water outages due to loadshedding and the collapse of water infrastructure has now not only left residents of the Inxuba Yethemba Local Municipality high and dry but is also seriously implicating the health of locals.

Residents of Cradock and Bergsig have now been without water for seven days.

Last week 1176 learners of the Middelland Secondary School in Middelburg were joined by teachers and other staff members in marching to demand that the Chris Hani District Municipality (CHDM) provide them with safe, potable water.

As you know, the CHDM is responsible for the provision of water to the Inxuba Yethemba Local Municipality.

The school engaged in a march to draw the attention of the municipality.

This led to an extremely unhygienic situation at the school.

Learners also fell ill and suffered from stomach ailments after drinking the carted water provided by the CHDM.

It is with the above in mind that I have once more written to you requesting your personal intervention in the water crisis.

I am also requesting additional water tanker trucks to be stationed permanently in Cradock and Middelburg to ensure a rapid supply of clean water to residents when all systems fail.

Loadshedding is wreaking havoc with water reticulation as electrical pump systems are offline for several hours daily.

Reservoirs, especially in high-lying areas, regularly run dry due to extended loadshedding and lack of diesel.

The CHDM has failed to deliver on its mandate and the municipality's ageing, failing and dilapidated water infrastructure is testament to this.

It has also come to my attention that CHDM lack funds to timeously buy and pay for diesel for the emergency generator at the Geelbooi storage dams in Cradock.

The generator powers the pumps that pump water to the water purification plant and reservoir in Bergsig.

The Bergsig reservoir provides water to 50 000 residents in the Cradock area.

The CHDM also regularly fails to manually start the generator to ensure that water is pumped to the reservoir.

You cannot standby idly while people are being deprived of their basic human right to water.

Please provide me with your department action plan to rectify the situation given the Presidents proclaiming of National State of Disaster.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K.P. Botha". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K' and a trailing flourish.

Hon. Kobus Botha, MPL