



EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

Shadow MEC for Social Development

EC Midlands Constituency Leader

The Hon. Kobus Botha MPL



Provincial Legislature
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Page 1 of 2

3 May 2023

MEC Zolile Williams
Local Government & Traditional Affairs
Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature

Dear MEC Williams

RE : INXUBA YETHEMBA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY – ELECTRICITY CRISES

Insufficient budget allocation, aging electrical infrastructure, lack of adequate spare parts and lack of correct electrical work tools for the electrical service section staff, has led to numerous power outages in this local municipality's area of jurisdiction.

Residents of Michausdal was left without electricity for three consecutive days last week which resulted in detrimental loss of refrigerated foodstuffs in many households. Some farmers on the Swaershoek road and Rooiwal area are currently without municipal electricity for five days, which is negatively effecting their farming operations.

Areas such as Cradock CBD, Bergsig, Rusoord, and Michausdal, suffer regular power outages and sporadic electrical surges that is damaging electrical equipment.

The towns battle with old electrical substations; overhead lines; underground cables exploding; and malfunctioning of electrical equipment that is older than 50 years, installed as far back as the 1960's.

The industrial area of Cradock has experienced power cuts for five ongoing days and the outdated municipal electrical infrastructure is now causing lower production, higher input costs, and reduced income for local businesses.

The power outages in Cradock have caused many businesses in all kinds of sectors, from retail food outlets, restaurants, abattoir, clothing, fuel stations, panel beaters and service orientated providers, to manufacturing and adjacent farmers, to lose sales.

In Middelburg the main receiving substation or transformer has been decommissioned to replace it with a new one.

Due to various delays from the municipality and ESKOM the town has been relying on a mobile generator, for two months, to supply electricity to the town as the aged electricity substation commissioned as far back as 1970, has never been replaced or maintained adequately.

This preventable delays by the municipality will mean that businesses must spend money on backup generators and solar panels (an expensive alternative to grid electricity), an expensive

necessity, reducing the amount they can spend on more profitable production equipment and wages for workers.

Given the voracity of the situation, what plans will your department implement to ensure that the Inxuba Yethemba municipal electricity network, parts, work tools and human resources are capacitated to do their work effective and efficiently.

We cannot have deteriorated municipal electricity infrastructure as this will lead to an unreliable electricity supply which results in increased running costs and reduced productivity and profitability for business, and possible job losses.

I am looking forward to your response in this regard.

Yours Sincerely,

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

Hon. Kobus Botha, MPL